

# Communitas



MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

May 2004



## President Michael I. Schafer Announces Plans to Retire in 2005

President Michael I. Schafer announced plans to retire from that position effective June 30th, 2005.

The announcement came during last week's Summer Institute recognition luncheon. It was reiterated during an afternoon news conference. He was joined at the news conference by members of the College's Board of Trustees, and a number of the

College's faculty, staff and administrators.

MVCC's Board of Trustees will soon initiate a national search for President Schafer's successor.

Dr. Schafer was appointed president of Mohawk Valley Community College in 1983. His more than 20 years as MVCC's president makes him one of the most senior community college presidents in the State University of New York system.

In 2001, the College completed a major \$21 million renovation of Utica Campus, with significant changes in nearly every campus building, culminating in construction of the new 65,000-square-foot Information Technology/Performing Arts/Conference Center Building with a state-of-the-art theater, the BlueCross BlueShield Conference & Training Center, extensive computer laboratories, and a series of modern classrooms. The College recently acquired a Steinway 150th Anniversary Model D concert grand piano for the theater, hosting a year-long series of benefit concerts to raise funds for purchase of the instrument.

This was preceded in 1989 by construction of the Utica Campus Science & Technology Building housing a variety of labs for chemistry, welding, electrical and mechanical engineering technology.

The Plumley Complex at the Rome Campus was opened in 1991, and houses classrooms, laboratories, a library and administrative offices.

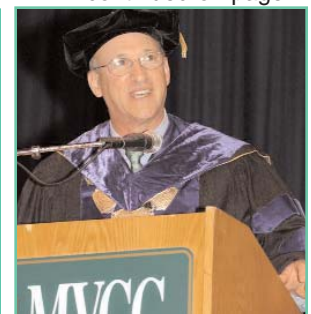
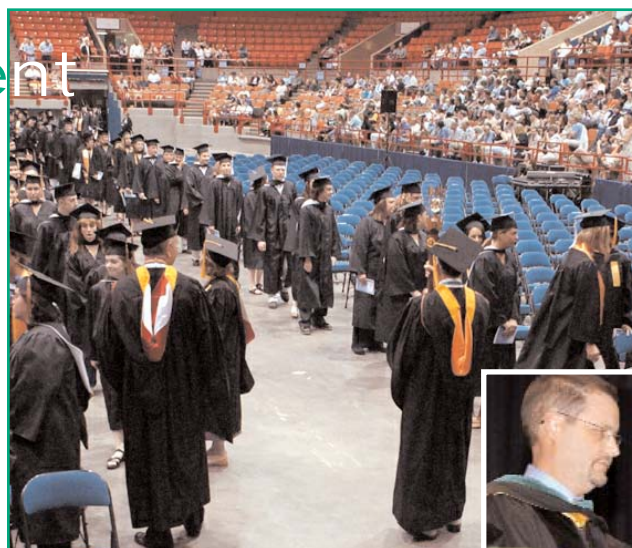
Total square footage of buildings on the Utica and Rome campuses has grown from 370,000 square feet in 1983 to 610,000 now.

The College recently held ground-breaking ceremonies for a new \$6 million 155-bed residence hall to be opened for the fall semester in 2005. A current review of athletic facilities and the College's Rome Campus may lead to significant developments in both areas over the next few years.

Nearly 20 new programs have been introduced at the College during the Schafer presidency. These include

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## 2004 Commencement Ceremony



Commencement Speaker  
Chancellor Robert King

Right: Alumni of Merit winner Dr. David Petrie accepts his award from David Mathis, Trustee and President of the Alumni Association.



## **President Schafer Announces Retirement, cont.**

Public Policy, Theater, Emergency Medical Services/Paramedic, Business Management, Chemical Dependency Practitioner, Digital Animation, Website Design & Management, Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology, Computer-Aided Drafting, Computer Science, Environmental Analysis/Chemical Technology, Fine Arts, Restaurant Management, Health Studies: Radiologic Technology, Hotel Technology, and International Studies.

Additional programs created during his presidency include General Studies, Childhood Education, Medical Assisting, Nutrition & Dietetics, Respiratory Care, Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology and Telecommunications Technology. Other programs have seen major changes and redevelopment, including Office Technologies, Graphic Communication, Health Information Technology, Culinary Arts Management, and Recreation & Leisure Services.

The College also added an Export Assistance Center, an ACT learning and testing center, ISO 9000 certification assistance, customized training for area employers, tractor trailer truck driving instruction, and has become home for the Mohawk Valley Police Academy.

Partnerships with other community educational organizations have been a major MVCC activity during Dr. Schafer's presidency, including the Millennium Project, with the Utica City School District, and the developing Synergy Project with the Rome City School District. For several years, the College partnered with the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute to provide a fine arts degree; today both institutions offer their own fine arts programs. The College also has a long-standing relationship with the College of Nursing at St. Elizabeth Medical Center. Last year, MVCC helped establish the Mohawk Valley College Consortium, in which students and employees at Utica College, Hamilton College, Morrisville State College, the SUNY Institute of Technology and Herkimer County Community College, as well as MVCC, are able to take courses at each of the institutions on a no-cost space-available basis.

During the Schafer presidency, assets of the MVCC Foundation grew from approximately \$87,000 to more than \$2 million. Today, the Foundation awards approximately \$150,000 in scholarships annually.

President Schafer came to MVCC from St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, St. Louis, Missouri, where he served as dean of instruction from 1980 to 1983. He also served as dean for instruction at Muskegon Community College in Michigan from 1971 to 1977 and again from 1978 to 1980. During 1977-1978, he was on leave from Muskegon Community College to serve as an HEW Fellow/Special Assistant to Secretary of Health, Education & Welfare Joseph Califano in Washington, DC.

He has also served as associate director of the Florida Community Junior College/Inter-Institutional Research Council (1969-71), as an assistant professor in the College of Education at the University of Florida (1969-71), as a biology teacher at Santa Fe Junior College in Gainesville, Florida (1966-69), and as a science teacher at Osceola High School in Kissimmee, Florida (1964-1966).

While at MVCC, President Schafer has compiled an extensive record of community service. He has served as a board member or officer of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield of Central New York, WCNY, the Utica Symphony, United Way of Greater Utica and New York State, Mohawk Valley Applied Technology Commission, Private Industry Council, Children's Museum of Utica, Mohawk Valley Regional Education Center for Economic Development, Oneida County Industrial Development Corporation, Mohawk Valley EDGE, School & Business Alliance, Rotary Club of Utica, Rome and Mohawk Valley Chambers of Commerce and the Business Council of New York. St Elizabeth Hospital named him "Humanitarian of the Year" in 1996, for his work on a cardiac care task force that obtained approval for open heart surgery in Utica.

He is serving as co-chair of the legislative relations committee of the Association of President of Public Community Colleges, representing 30 SUNY community colleges as well as six institutions in the City University of New York.

He is also president of the Post-Secondary International Network, an international organization comprised of community colleges or similar institutions in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

In 1998, the Association of Community College Trustees named him Northeast Region Chief Executive Officer of the Year.

In 1989, he headed a Rotary International Group Study Exchange to New Zealand. He also traveled to the former Soviet Union in 1987 on behalf of the American Association of Community & Junior Colleges, and to the Czech Republic in 1994, representing the SUNY system.

President Schafer holds three degrees from the University of Florida, a B.S. in chemistry and biology (1964), an M.Ed. in junior college science teaching with a minor in research and statistics, and an Ed.D. in administration of higher education, in 1969. He also received an Ed.S. from the University of Florida in 1967, with a major in behavioral research and computer applications, and a minor in junior college administration. The University of Florida Institute of Higher Education presented its Outstanding Graduate Award in 1997.

He is MVCC's fourth president, following the late Dr. Albert Payne (1953-1968), the late Dr. W. Stewart Tosh (1968-1974), and Dr. George Robertson (1974-1983). From its founding in 1946 until 1953, the College was a New York State Institute of Applied Arts & Sciences, operated by the New York State Education Department, and was led by a director, Paul Richardson.

Dr. Schafer resides in Utica with his wife Kathleen. He has a son, Adam, a daughter, Michelle, and a grandson, Glen.

## Marjorie Thorpe Award Winners

The MVCC Libraries announce the winners of the Thirteenth Annual Marjorie Thorpe Memorial Award for excellence in research and writing. Papers were judged by seven librarians on variety and quality of sources (50%), writing style (30%), and accurate and appropriate use of references (ie, the bibliography and citations within the text) (20%). This year 29 papers were submitted by 28 students from 4 counties.

The winners are:

**FIRST PLACE:** Joseph Barnick, a distance learning student from Charlton, NY, "Don't Blame the Game: a Unique Perspective on the Benefits of Video Games".

Written for: EN 101, Spring 2004. Instructor: Cynthia Villanti

**SECOND PLACE:** Amanda E. Reinhardt, from Utica, NY, "A Comparison of Two of Shakespeare's Plays".

Written for: EN 102, Fall 2003. Instructor: Andrew Keiser

**THIRD PLACE:** Angel Zakala, from Utica, NY, "Women Writers of Early American Literature".

Written for: EN 248, American Literature. Instructor: James Gifford

### HONORABLE MENTION:

Brenda Barsch, from Rome, NY, "More Than a Case of the Winter Blues". Written for: EN 101, Fall 2003. Instructor: Douglas Houghton

Jamie L. Clark, from Rome, NY, "Welfare to Work: a Temporary Solution".

Written for: EN 102, Spring 2004. Instructor: Cynthia Villanti

Brandy Crawford, from Oneida, NY, "The Crucible".

Written for: EN 102, Spring 2004. Instructor: Douglas Houghton

Sharon Giovinazzo, from Utica, NY, "To Read or Not to

Read: Is There Any Question?"

Written for: ED 208, Spring 2004. Instructor: Patricia Hirsch

All winners receive a certificate. In addition, the first place winner receives \$75.00, second place \$50.00, and third place \$25.00. The Award is sponsored by the Friends of the Mohawk Valley Community College Libraries, and named for a former librarian at the college.

The awards were presented in a ceremony held in the Utica Campus Library lobby on Monday, May 17, 2004, at 1:00 pm.

Friends, family, faculty, and the public were invited to attend and congratulate the students on a fine job.

The MVCC Libraries would like to thank all those students who worked hard and submitted their papers to the contest. Also appreciated are the efforts of Allison Abbass, Michael Bennett, Joshua Campbell, Kelly Clay, Tara Cook, Christy A. Cordo, Alex DiPerna, Olga Goncharenko, Dawanda Gregory, Renee Lyne Guidera, Jennifer Havener, Nicole Jacobs, Justin Madonia, Alexis Pultynovich, Mike Racioppa, Andrew Ritchey, Jennifer Skelly, Rose Varlaro, Chad Williams, Crystal Wojnas, and Phillip Youngs, all examples of the fine students to be found at MVCC.

## MVCC, NY Association for Pupil Transportation Create Statewide Program for School Transportation Managers

Transportation managers for hundreds of school districts and BOCES centers Statewide will have an opportunity to advance their careers and improve their management knowledge and skills through a new on-line program created jointly by MVCC's CCED and the New York Association for Pupil Transportation.

Working to develop the School Transportation Management program on behalf of MVCC were Dick Suhr, of the CCED, and Associate Professor George Goerner of the Business & Information Technology Department.

The program was announced during a news conference on May 25th. Participants included Peter Manella, MVCC Class of 1972 (Liberal Arts & Sciences), who is executive director of NYAPT. Also participating were MVCC President Michael I. Schafer, NYAPT President Scott Goble of the Canandaigua City Schools, and Patricia Bailey of the Syracuse City Schools, who is the NYAPT president-elect.

School buses in New York State transport over 2.3 million children every school day, on more than 50,000 school buses. The school bus fleet Statewide is valued at over \$3.5 billion.

Gobel said, "We believe that the professionals who manage school transportation services need to be armed with modern and rigorous skills and ought to be in a mode of continuing education and improvement. This is the only way to ensure the safety of our children and the efficiency of our operations. The safety of the children has always been foremost in our priorities and recent school budget pressures makes it all the more crucial that we manage our resources properly. This program will help us to accomplish that objectives."

President Schafer pointed to the program as an example of the College's ability to respond to needs on a Statewide basis as well as locally, not only through collaboration with NYAPT but also through use of the College's ability to use Internet technology to provide instruction for those unable to attend on-site classes.