

Communitas



MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

March 21st 2005

MVCC Women's Basketball



The MVCC women's basketball team finished third in the NJCAA Division III national championship tournament.

The Hawks, seeded 4th, won their first round game on Thursday, defeating fifth-seeded Madison Area Technical College of Wisconsin 58-56. On Friday, MVCC faced top-seeded (and eventual national champions) Anoka-Ramsey Community College of Minnesota in the national semifinal, losing 70-67 in a hard-fought contest. The Hawks came back on Saturday to take third place in the tournament, downing second-seeded Joliet Junior College of Illinois 64-56.

MVCC's Clarissa Newton was named to the All-Tournament Team. Including post-season competition, the Hawks compiled a 34-2 record, bringing their total won-loss record for the past two years to 63-4.



Associate Professor Paul Cruskie

"Sooner or later," says Dr. Sandra Engel, "every student who receives a degree from MVCC will encounter the Humanities Department. Depending on their curriculum and interests, they may take EN101 and 102, Oral and Written Communication, Report Writing, or one or more of our other courses. We hope that encounter will be educational and pleasant, and do our best to make it so."

There are many other courses from which to choose. They include, but are not limited to, Effective Speech, Practical and Professional Written Communication, Introduction to Poetry, Oral Interpretation, Journalism, and Creative Writing. There are also English as a Second Language courses, a series of music and art courses, acting and theater courses, a variety of literature courses (American, British, World, Dramatic), and several philosophy courses, and several entitled Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities. The Department also offers courses in Spanish, French, Italian, Latin, Chinese, and occasionally German and Russian. In fact, the Department is collaborating with the Center for Community & Economic Development to offer Spanish and French in area high schools on a dual credit basis, as an alternative to advanced placement foreign language instruction. In addition, students whose skills are not college-level take developmental reading and writing courses, also in Humanities.

The Department, which Dr. Engel heads, is by her description "big, diverse and energetic." She says "we try to make sure students are competent readers and writers, and can think critically. We prepare them for additional education, or for jobs where being able to read, write and think can help them succeed."

General Studies is the Department's largest program, often enrolling as many as 500 majors. For some students, General Studies is the chosen point of entry to the College when they aren't quite sure of educational and career goals, or need some developmental work before pursuing program courses. For some other students, General Studies represents an opportunity to tailor a program to meet specific personal needs.

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Humanities Dept., cont.

One of the Department's newer programs is the English as a Second Language Certificate, which had its first graduate last spring. Generally, about 100 students are enrolled in ESL courses, although interest has declined somewhat in the post-9/11 era. The Department is seeking ways to collaborate with



Dr. Richard Lamasney

the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees on new ways of serving this population.

More longstanding is the Department's degree program in Humanities & Social Sciences, a transfer program that serves as a traditional route to many professions, including journalism, education and law. It is one of three programs—the others being International Studies and

Theater—at MVCC which require a full year of foreign language study. The program also requires a year of mathematics, a year of history, and elective courses from an approved General Education list.

The Department also administers a small program in International Studies. Students are prepared to transfer into four-year programs in business, social sciences or humanities with an international orientation.

Another new program is Theater, a relatively new program tied directly to the relatively recent development of a first-rate theater facility in the Information Technology Building. Students take courses such as Acting 1: Principles of Acting, Acting 2: Characterization & Scene Study, Introduction to the Theater, Technical Theater, Musical Theater, Theater Practicum, Playwriting and Topics in Theater. Associate Professor Paul Cruskie played a major role in development of this curriculum and coordinates the program.

As the program gains momentum, students are doing more live production. This semester, On April 28th, 29th and 30th, they will present *Lysistrata*, the Greek comedy by Aristophanes, under direction of Assistant Professor Julie Lewis. The production will incorporate a new approach to this classic, with chlamys (period dress) and rap music. In the fall, they will present their first musical, "Dames at Sea," under the direction of Associate Professor Paul Cruskie.

The Humanities Department also plays a major role in the College's Cultural Series. In fact, the Cultural Series was born in the Humanities Department years ago. Among its early pioneers were Humanities Department faculty members Jerry Goodman and Jim Gifford, who serves as Cultural Series coordinator.

Over the past couple of years, the Series has flourished, especially with the new theater facility, and with new financial support from Student Congress. The Series has expanded the number and variety of offerings, and the Cultural Committee now includes representatives from the Art Department, Student Activities, Eileen Dailey from the President's Office, Joe Basi, coordinator of campus events, and Life Science Professor Richard Thomas, representing the Rome Campus. Other members from the Humanities include Sandra Engel, Paul Cruskie, Carolyn Pace, Julie Lewis, and Luther Riedel. Technical Assistant Michael Diederich keeps things running smoothly in the theater. The Cultural Series provides entertainment and enrichment for both the College and the greater surrounding community, and provides many of MVCC's students with a special opportunity to broaden their cultural horizons. While most events currently take place on the Utica Campus, the Committee continues to explore ways of adding events on the Rome Campus.

The Humanities Department and its offerings continues to evolve. Over the past few years, there have been new experimental courses such as Eastern Philosophy, and Shakespeare on Screen, and Mystery and Murder on Stage.



Andrea Leigh Grabski, who completed a respiratory care certificate in 2002, is a respiratory therapist at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center.

Trend Data Book

If any department who like additional copies of the 11th edition of the official Spring 2005 Trend Data Book, please contact Sam Russo by e-mail or by phone (EXT. 5342).

This newly revised 11th edition, is loaded with narrative and graphic illustrations assessing the fall 2000 - fall 2004 trends in enrollment, admissions, academic programs, graduate, administrative/financial and personnel. A glossary section is also included with over 50 terms and definitions with some new.

Please note that the enrollment section is now expanded and includes even more high school information to include twenty-two (22) additional graphic (five-year) assessments of feeder high schools. The academic programs section is also now expanded and includes up to seven (7) more charts; increasing it to 40.

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Humanities Dept., Cont.

Professor Kathleen Bernstein has prepared a new developmental reading course, Academic Reading, to be taken in conjunction with Sociology 101. Courses in Creative Writing, and English 1 and 2 are now offered on-line. Professor Kathleen Bernstein has also developed a specialized version of ED100 for Proctor students in the Millennium Project.

Individual accomplishments and contributions to College life are many and varied.

Among examples of this activity:

Instructor **Alina Mildred Treis** advises the student newspaper and coordinates the Open Mic sessions, where students and other can read their own poetry and short stories, read their favorite authors and poets, present musical and other performances. She also recently completed her Ph.D. in English literature and theory at SUNY Albany, and serves on the General Education Committee.

Instructor **Robert J. Musante III** has updated a book of poetry, "Touching Earth and Spirit," originally published in 2002. He is also completing his doctoral dissertation on William Blake.

Professor **George Searles**, widely published, received two SUNY Chancellors' Awards, one for teaching in 1984-85 and one for scholarship and creative activities in 2002-2003. He was the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching New York State Professor of the Year in 2002, and in 2003 was the New York State United Teachers Member of the Year.

Professor **James Gifford** received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship & Creative Activities for 2003-2004 and has edited two books on gay literature.

Professor **Marie Czarnecki** serves on the College-Wide Curriculum Committee, has received both the MVCC and SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

Associate Professor **William Hysell** serves on the College Senate, serves as Department Coordinator, and teaches Eastern Philosophy.

Assistant Professor **Luther Riedel** is completing his doctoral dissertation, and has been actively involved with Summer Institute.

Assistant

Professor **Yixiong Liang** is accompanying a number of students on a visit to China later this year.

Associate Professor **Carolyn West Pace** is working with the Art Department on a course in Italian art, which culminates in an optional trip to Italy this summer.

Instructor **Catherine Don Diego** has put several courses on line, serves as advisor to Spectrum, and serves on the Distance Learning Committee.

Instructor **Alison Doughtie** will be replacing Instructor Rich Lamasney on the IEC in August; she serves as advisor to the International Club, and he to the Carribean Club.

Associate Professor **Leslie Goerner** is a widely-published poet who has taught Creative Writing on and off-line.

Instructor and playwright **Julie Lewis** directed her play, "Jarvis Legend's Borrowed Skin" last spring in the Theater.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 3/22

~ Rome Industrial Development Corporation (RIDC) Informational forum, PC lobby and auditorium, Rome Campus.

Monday, 3/28

~ Brown Bag Lunch Series, "Making Decisions About Your College Career," 11:00am and Noon, IT 225.

~ Cultural Series Event: MOVIE: "The Godfather," 7:00pm, IT Theater.

Tuesday, 3/29

~ Cultural Series Event: MOVIE: "Scarface," 7:00pm, IT Theater.

Wednesday, 3/30

~ Brown Bag Lunch Series, "Making Decisions About Your College Career," Noon-1:00pm, PC 219, Rome Campus.

~ Cultural Series Event: MOVIE: "Goodfellas," 7:00pm, IT Theater.

~ MVCC Student Showcase, 3:00pm, IT Theater.

~Hospitality Programs Theme Dinner, "March Maple Madness,"

\$18pp, 6:00pm, Hospitality Dining Room, Rome Campus. For reservations, call X7702, Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm.

Thursday, 3/31

~ Cultural Series Event: MOVIE: "Married to the Mob," 7:00pm, IT Theater.

Saturday, 4/2

~ "Opera McGill" performance of "Liebe, Amore et Amour," 8:00pm, IT Theater.

~ Lacrosse vs. SUNY Delhi, 1:00pm, Proctor Stadium.

~ Men's Tennis vs. Broome CC, 1:00pm.



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Humanities Dept., cont.

Assistant Professor **Tim Messick** serves on the General Education Committee, taught the "Shakespeare on Screen", and will be teaching Academic Reading next fall.

Basic Skills Coordinator **Kathy Bernstein** has received both the MVCC and SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Professional Service.

Associate Professor **Satya Tandon**, the first in Humanities to employ computers in teaching writing, teaches World Literature and is one of the readers for the Placement Test Writing Sample.

The other reader is Associate Professor **Paul Cruskie**. Technical Assistant **Mike Diederich** designs the sets for plays, arranges lights and sound, and is working on his Master's from Empire State College.

Professor **Ellis Searles** serves on the Millennium Project Committee as well as on the Faculty Evaluation Committee.

Dr. Engel has been heavily involved in a U.S. Agency for International Development project designed to assist Kien Giang Community College (KGCC), Vietnam, in its development as the newest of nine community colleges in that nation. Her involvement began with her selection as a Fulbright Scholar and her five-month stay there. Business & Information Technology Instructor William McGowan also traveled to Vietnam as part of the project and recently returned. The rector of KGCC also visited MVCC, and several members of the KGCC faculty came to MVCC last summer for instruction in information technology, provided by MVCC faculty and by colleagues from Kentucky and Texas.

The Humanities Department is fortunate to have three term appointment instructors this semester: **Colleen Bolton, Andrew Keiser, and Rosemary Mink**. Assistant Professor **Cynthia Villanti** is on leave this year.

The faculty is aptly assisted by secretaries **Kathy Kelly** and **Dee Jackson**.

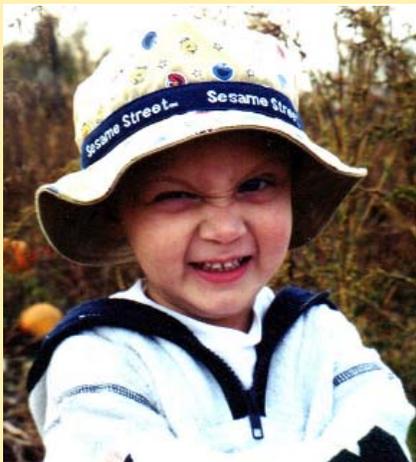
In its earliest days, when its name was Mohawk Valley Technical Institute, the College focused on technology and business courses and programs. Those remain, and are as important as ever, but along the way there was a recognition of the role played by the humanities in educating the whole person. Today, whether as a service department for students in other areas of the College, or as a department overseeing its own programs, and developing its own innovative courses, the Humanities Department plays a central role in the academic and cultural life of MVCC and its students.



Eleemosynary

Marie Czarnecki, Jenn Rubino, and Beverly Quist perform in the Reader's Theater production of "Eleemosynary."

Associate Professor Paul Cruskie directed the production.



Cans for Cancer Bottle and Can Drive

to benefit the American Cancer Society's
Relay for Life Team
"Owen's Outback"

In Loving Memory of Owen Riley Kimball
Saturday, April 30th, 8:00am - 3:00pm
Our Lady of the Rosary Church
Parking Lot
1736 Burrstone Road
(Across From Notre Dame High School)