

Communitas



MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

November 7th, 2005



Gala Weekend



About 90 faculty and staff attended Friday night's event and enjoyed great food, music and prizes. Julie Dewan won the Grand prize.....\$100!

Saturday night's event saw the best attendance in the four-year history of the Gala. 300 people enjoyed entertainment by the Frank Sinatra sound-alike, Cary Hoffman with the Stan Rubin Orchestra.



Upcoming Events

Monday, 11/7

~ Brown Bag Lunch Series, "Strategic Learning," 11:00am and Noon, ACC 116.

Wednesday, 11/9

~ Hospitality Programs Luncheon, theme: "40th Anniversary of the East Coast Blackout: Manhattan Lunch by Candlelight," 11:45am, on the Rome campus. Price is \$9.50, call 334-7702 for reservations.

~ Accommodative Placement Testing, 5:00pm, AB 153.

~ Documentary film, "Inside Deep Throat," 7:00pm, IT Theater.

Thursday, 11/10

~ Photography lecture: "Photographic Paradise," by Francois Deschamps, 3:00pm, IT 225.

Friday, 11/11

~ Men's Basketball Tournament, TBA.

Saturday, 11/12

~ Golden Dragon Acrobats, 8:00pm, IT Theater.

~ Men's Basketball Tournament, TBA.

Sunday, 11/13

~ Hurricane Relief Benefit Concert, 3:00pm, MV Commons.

Monday, 11/14

~ Brown Bag Lunch Series, "Making Decisions About Your College Career," 11:00am and Noon, ACC 116.

Tuesday, 11/15

~ College Senate Open Forum, "Distance & Online Education," 2:30pm, ACC 116.

~ Women's Basketball vs. Broome CC, 6:00pm, Gym.

~ Men's Basketball vs. Broome CC, 8:00pm, Gym.

Wednesday, 11/16

~ Placement Testing, 6:00pm, IT Theater.

~ Hospitality Programs Luncheon, theme: "South Beach Diet Delicious!" (The film *The Birdcage* with Robin Williams, Nathan Lane and Gene Hackman will be shown.) 11:45am, on the Rome campus. Price is \$9.50, call 334-7702 for reservations.

Saturday, 11/19

~ Women's Basketball vs. Columbia-Greene CC, 2:00pm, Gym.

~ Men's Basketball vs. Columbia-Greene CC, 4:00pm, Gym.

~ Hockey vs. CC of Morris, 7:00pm, Utica Aud.

Sunday, 11/20

~ Hockey vs. CC of Morris, 1:00pm, Utica Aud.

New Perkins Equipment Just in Time as MVCC Students Prepare for Engineering Design Competition.

The Perkins initiative within the Engineering Technologies & the Trades department is thriving in its fourth year. The ETT professional tutor, Heather Ramsdale, provides tutoring to all ETT students, in an effort to increase retention rates each year. This year, through funding from VATEA, the department will be purchasing new Power Metal Shears for the welding laboratory, as well as, a 4th axis drive rotary table to improve the CNC laboratory. This new machinery will allow students to build parts that are currently being used at local employers.

In addition, the professional Perkins tutor also serves as the advisor for the MVCC Society for Manufacturing Engineers Club, otherwise known as SME. This club is partnering with a new club on campus, the Society of Automotive Engineers, to participate in an intercollegiate engineering design competition sponsored by SAE International this spring. The two clubs will design and build a mini baja, a rugged, single seat off road recreational vehicle, which will be driven in the competition located in Madison, Wisconsin. The ETT students will build the vehicle on campus utilizing the welding, CNC and machine shop laboratories. The new Perkins equipment listed above will be put to use with no time to waste.

Faculty and Staff in the News

The Criminal Justice Educator's Association of New York State (CJEANYS), has recently re-elected Assistant Professor **Carolyn D'Argenio** as its secretary. She has held this position since 2002. Professor **Beverly Quist** was just appointed regional vice-president.

The region covers an area from Herkimer to Syracuse.

CJEANYS is an outstanding organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of criminal justice higher education.

MVCC Hosts David Kaczynski and Gary Wright

On Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 7:00 pm, David Kaczynski and Gary Wright will be speaking in the ACC 116. This presentation is being supported by MVCC's Social Sciences faculty, Catholic Charities of Oneida/Herkimer County, and New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty (NYADP). David Kaczynski is the Executive Director of NYADP and brother of the so-called Unabomber Theodore (Ted) Kaczynski. Gary Wright is one of Ted Kaczynski's victims.

The Kaczynski family came to national attention in April 1996 with the arrest and subsequent conviction of Theodore Kaczynski. Nicknamed the "Unabomber," Ted Kaczynski was responsible for a series of mail bombs that killed three people and injured 23 others over 17 years.

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MVTI Reunion Weekend

On Friday and Saturday, October 28th and 29th, approximately 45 alumni from MVTI classes, 1949-1960 attended several events throughout the weekend.

The Friday night kickoff was a welcome reception at the Radisson.

On Saturday afternoon, the grads toured the Utica campus and enjoyed a luncheon in the ACC 116. Many grads also attended the Gala on Saturday night.

Photos

Left: Georgia Evans, 1955. Right: Class of 1949 grad Peter Nicolucci, and Tom Wilson, Class 53, look over old yearbooks.



MVCC Hosts David Kaczynski and Gary Wright, cont.

Despite the U.S. Department of Justice's promise to keep the family's role in the investigation confidential, it was soon leaked that Theodore's brother, David, a youth counselor, and David's wife Linda Patrik, a college professor, had approached the FBI with their suspicions about Theodore, thus bringing the end to the violence. David and Linda also felt betrayed when the Justice Department sought the death penalty in the case, despite Theodore's serious mental illness. For nearly two years, David and Linda lobbied tirelessly to prevent the execution of David's brother.

In 1998, David and Linda received a million dollar reward from the Justice Department for their role in the investigation. Minus attorney fees and taxes, the entire amount was used to set up the Unabomber Survivors Fund, which distributed \$680,000 to victims of Theodore's assaults.

Gary Wright was one of the surviving victims. In 1986, he was nearly killed by one of Ted Kaczynski's bombs. After three surgeries, his physical recovery was nearly complete but he continued to struggle with emotional effects of the trauma. Eventually, Gary's deep faith led him to a path of healing. When David Kaczynski telephoned him in the autumn of 1996 to apologize for the harm his brother had done, Gary not only accepted the apology, but he also reached out to David with an open heart. Over the years, the two have become close friends.

David and Linda continued to lobby against the death penalty. In 1999, they traveled to California to help fight for clemency for Manny Babbit, a mentally ill Vietnam War veteran. Babbit, a poor African American, was turned in to the Sacramento Police by his brother Bill. The police promised that Manny would receive help for his mental illness and not get the death penalty, yet Manny was convicted of a capital offense and sentenced to death.

Since Manny's execution, David has given numerous speeches and appeared on several national television shows voicing his strong opposition to the death penalty. In 1999, David and Linda were honored by the New York State Bar Association with its annual Justice Award. David has addressed community, school, and professional audiences on a range of topics, including the death penalty, mental illness, non-violence, and ethical decision-making. In July 2001, David was selected after a nationwide search as the new Executive Director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty - a statewide organization that unconditionally opposes capital punishment.

At November's presentation at MVCC, David Kaczynski and Gary Wright will share the story of their unusual friendship and discuss the role of compassion and forgiveness in their healing from violent tragedy. "Stories like ours not only touch on the issues that surround capital punishment, but do so in a very personal way," according to David Kaczynski. "Audiences begin to see that a violent act, whether it's a murder or an execution, always creates other victims, including family members and the community as a whole."