



**Traditional dance** – Kenisha Groomes-Faulk performs a traditional Akan dance while teaching a dance class on the Rome Campus.

## Passion for African heritage

When it comes to the rich heritage of the Akan people of Ghana, Kenisha Groomes-Faulk lets her emotions flow out of her in the form of traditional social and ceremonial dance. Her passion for her family's history has exposed her to cultural customs over the years that has created an enlightenment.

"African history and dance have always been a passion of mine and the Akan culture in West Africa is the closest ethnic group that has the same physical characteristics as my family," says Ms. Groomes-Faulk.

Like most African-Americans, Ms. Groomes-Faulk is only able to trace her family history to a certain point as records to which part of Africa slaves came from were not kept.

"I have not been able to trace my family back to Ghana, but there are

strong similarities with my family with certain physical features. ... We can pretty much claim heritage because the slave trade was from West Africa," says Ms. Groomes-Faulk, who works in the Registrar-Business Office on the Rome Campus.

While living in North Carolina, Ms. Groomes-Faulk met a man who was Akan and taught traditional Akan dance classes. Her appreciation for her heritage grew more intense while learning these dances.

It is this passion that led her to organize two Akan dance programs through MVCC's Center for Community and Economic Development on the Rome Campus.

The dances taught in these classes were those that would be performed

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**December 17, 1978** – Nicholas Gentile, vice president of Loeb, Rhodes, Hornblower & Co., and resident manager of the firm's Utica office, was elected president of the MVCC Foundation. Mr. Gentile was a 1949 graduate of the Retail Business Management program. Raymond Cardinale, manager of production and purchasing at the Bendix Corporation plant in Utica, was named vice president of the Foundation. Mr. Cardinale was also a 1949 graduate, in Mechanical Technology.

**December 16, 1994** – MVCC had recently hosted Iroquois clan mother Dewasanta for an anthropology class project open to all students. Dewasanta, a Hodaunasaune (Iroquois) Onondaga eel clan mother, had been the subject of numerous books and articles, and appeared in many films, most notably "The Last of the Mohegans." A 1994 German film about her was shown. The event was part of a sociology and anthropology classes' study of Native American history and culture which also included a trip to the Akwasasne/St. Regis/Mohawk Territory.

## 60th Anniversary Snapshots



### Final issue of 2006

This is the last issue of Communitas for the fall semester. This publication will resume in mid-January.

Have a happy and safe holiday break.

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during social gatherings such as a birth of a child, marriage or naming ceremony. One such dance - Adwoa - is typically performed by women during the rite of passage for a young woman. This is a very feminine and graceful dance.

Along with learning dances done at festivals and other celebrations, students received an introduction to basic Twi language. Students were also exposed to Ghanaian food, drink, music, books, and clothing.

Ms. Groomes-Faulk's first class had five students and her second class grew to seven students.

"Working with small intimate groups really helped. I wanted to make it a comfortable environment because they (the students) have to move in ways they are not accustomed," said Ms. Groomes-Faulk.

Ms. Groomes-Faulk will teach two non-credit Akan dance classes this spring – Mondays, February 5-March 19, 7:15-8:15 p.m.; and Mondays, April 16-May 14, 7:15-8:15 p.m.

She will also offer two African cooking classes called *A Taste of Africa* that will feature authentic West and East African cooking techniques. These will be held Saturday, February 24, 9:00 a.m. to noon; and Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. to noon, on the Rome Campus.

Another African related course being offered this spring through CCED is *Introduction to Capoeira Angola*. This is an African-Brazilian Martial Art. Classes will be held Wednesdays, February 7- March 21, 7:00-8:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, April 18-May 16, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Fitness Center on the Rome Campus.



**Helping kids as a coach** - MVCC student Jennifer Stewart helps Rashynaike Pulluaim make a Christmas Tree ornament during the annual Kids N Coaches Christmas Celebration on the Utica Campus.



**Sharing Tree** - Student Health Center staff pose in front of the items collected for the servicemen and women serving in Iraq. From left are: Anne Popeo, Candace Miller and Linda Nielsen.

## MVCC helps our Injured soldiers in Iraq

The Student Health Center of MVCC requested the College community help remember members of the Military this Holiday Season who are presently hospitalized at the Air Force Theater Hospital Trauma Center in Balad, Iraq.

In the true spirit of giving, many graciously donated requested items of cookies, playing cards, books, old magazines, gum, foot powder, hand lotion, stationery, pens and pencils, hand wipes and phone cards in an effort to show appreciation for all they are doing to preserve freedom.

The Staff of the Student Health Center would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to all who have donated and another special thanks to Terry Walters and Carol Gawarecki of Office Services and Carol Prichard for the beautiful flyer.

Again, with grateful thanks and wishing you all a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season!

## Upcoming Events on MVCC Campuses

### Monday, December 18

- Empire Aero Center Computer Training, PC 252, Rome, 8:00 am
- MVCC Board of Trustees, PH 300, 4:00 pm

### Tuesday, December 19

- Empire Aero Center Computer Training, PC 252, Rome, 8:00 am
- Yoga, ACC 116, 5:30 pm

### Thursday, December 21

- MVCC Winter Graduation, IT Theater, 6:00 pm

### December 23 – January 1 Christmas Break

# Summary of the December 4 Strategic Planning Committee meeting

## MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### *Strategic Planning Committee*

Meeting held on December 4, 2006

1. Review/Approval of Agenda: On a motion by Joan Andrek, seconded by Patty Fox and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as submitted.

2. Public Comments: None

3. Review/Approval of the Minutes of the November 13, 2006 Meeting: On a motion by Marie Kohl, seconded by Mike Sewall, the minutes of the November 13 meeting were approved as submitted.

4. Report of the Nominating Committee: Marie Kohl has discussed the committee vacancy with members of the Classified Staff. Mary Noti has indicated a willingness to serve. On a motion by Patty Fox, seconded by Frank Elias and unanimously approved, Mary Noti was elected to the Strategic planning Committee as a member of the Classified Staff, with a term ending December 31, 2007. Don Kelly has contacted the Student Congress about that vacancy and will follow up with additional requests.

5. Report on Selection of Priority Objectives for the 2007-2008 Academic Year: Several work groups have met and identified priority objectives:

a. Institutional Climate: Patty Fox reported that this work group met on December 1. The group has identified four priority objectives for '07-'08: 1. Continue to develop and implement a salary structure which will permit MVCC to successfully compete for and retain quality faculty and staff.

4. Pursue staff development programs which positively impact all employees of the College.

5. Create an atmosphere in which all employees feel appreciated for the contributions they make to the College.

6. Encourage behaviors that improve morale and that demonstrate respect for the dignity and worth of one's fellow employees.

She noted that Objective 7, (Increase diversity of faculty and staff consistent with the College's Affirmative Action Plan) identified as a priority objective for '06-'07 was well underway.

b. Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment: '06-'07 priority objectives will be carried over into '07-'08. These are objectives:

3. Link assessment to planning and resource allocation and improvement, not only of the institution but also of the assessment process itself.

4. Ensure proper intake assessment and course placement of students; and

6. Assess student academic achievement in the areas of academic programs, basic skills, general education, information management, and social, personal, and cultural development.

c. Rome Campus: Priority objectives remain the same for '07-'08:

1. Identify local/regional needs for higher education and training; provide programs, services and delivery systems to

meet those needs.

2. Strengthen and promote the MVCC Rome campus as a high-quality branch within the context of the College's overall mission;

3. Develop and implement strategies to increase new credit and non-credit enrollments, emphasizing non-traditional as well as traditional populations;

4. Work with Oneida County and other stakeholders to create and maintain physical facilities that adequately support the College's operations in Rome.

d. Financial Stability: this work group will meet this week to identify priority objectives.

e. Marketing: proposed work group members have been identified and invited to participate. The work group will then select priority objectives for '07-'08.

f. Enrollment Management, Educational Programming, and Information Technology have not yet identified priority objectives.

Dan Larson asked if the Strategic Planning Committee has identified a mechanism to be used if objectives need to be modified. He noted that there might be internal or external factors that determine a specific objective is no longer appropriate, or that require the addition of new objectives. He cited a specific example affecting Educational Programming, involving uncertainty about the college's role with the Refugee Center. Changes in the center's responsibilities may require changes in the college's activities. The committee feels that the revised goals and objectives are broad enough to incorporate likely changes. In addition, priority objectives are selected annually and may reflect changes at the institutional level. Changes in priorities or changes in work steps necessary to achieve objectives can be noted as comments in the templates used for annual work group reports.

Eileen Dailey stated that a document, similar to "Thinking and Acting Strategically," containing the revised Strategic Goals and Objectives recently approved by the college's Board of Trustees will be printed and distributed widely in early spring 2007.

6. Review of Progress on 2006-2007 Priority Objectives: Work group annual reports have been posted on the public folders. Selection of 2007-2008 priority objectives will reflect progress made on '06-'07 priority objectives.

7. Communication with the College Community/Roles and Responsibilities of Strategic Planning Committee Members: Don Kelly distributed copies of an e-mail he recently received regarding the negative image of the Strategic Planning Committee in the college community at large. The communication sparked a discussion regarding the role and responsibilities of SPC members and regarding how communication may be improved. Ron Cantor suggested that SPC members, each representing a specific college constituency, have a responsibility to discuss SPC activities with that constituency. Mike Sewall noted that the SPC has a representative of the College Senate and asked if regular reports to the

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# Summary of the December 1 Middle States Committee meeting

## MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### *Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee*

Steering Committee Meeting held on December 1, 2006.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the November 17, 2006 meeting were reviewed and revised. Dennis Rahn moved to approve the minutes, Bob Decker seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Review of Work Group Material: The Steering Committee began the review of Work Group 5 - Standards 8 & 9 material. Dennis Rahn prefaced the review by saying that Work Group 5 had split into three groups dealing separately with the topics of Admission, Retention and Student Services.

3. Review of drafts: Dan Larson reminded the committee to review the changes in dates for the meetings this semester. The schedule for the review of the Work Groups drafts is below. Drafts should be sent out by the Monday of the week when the draft will be reviewed by the Steering Committee. Chairs should be prepared to highlight issues.

Note Changes:

Revised Schedule for Steering Committee Meetings:

Payne Hall, Room 300/Plumley Complex, Room 209 from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Friday, October 6

Finish Work Group 2

Friday, October 20

Start Work Group 6,

Friday, November 3

Finish Work Group 6, Start

Work Group 1

Friday, November 17

Finish Work Group 1, Start

Work Group 5

Friday, December 1

Work Group 5,

Friday, December 15  
Group 7

Work Group 3, Start Work

Payne Hall, Room 300 from 11:00 until - Lunch will be served:

Tuesday, December 19

Finish Work Group 7, Work

Group 4

If needed from 11:30 – 2:00 in Payne Hall, Room 300:

Wednesday, December 20

Reminders:

a. Work Group Chairs should provide a date and page numbers on each

b. Charge questions should be included in the draft document

c. Description and analysis sections should be separated in the document

d. Drafts should provide reference to documents that validate statements/recommendations

e. Referenced documents should be given to Rosero if they are not already in the Document Inventory

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### History behind the 'College Mace'

The mace is a symbol of authority, derived from a weapon used during the Middle Ages. MVCC's mace was designed by Professor Willard Sauter for the inauguration of MVCC President W. Stewart Tosh in 1969.

Turned out of native hand-rubbed black walnut by Walter Pietsch, well-known local woodworking craftsman, the mace is approximately three and one-half feet high. An original arrowhead, found on the farm of Randall Bartholomew of Clinton and presented to the College by Mr. Bartholomew, is embedded in a clear globe at the top of the mace, symbolic of the area's association with native American Indians. Three metal seals, representing the College, the State University, and Oneida County, circle the mace and two thin grooves turned in the wood symbolize the two-year college education.

A cluster of golden arrows, each approximately ten inches long, rises to the top of the mace, representing the five original institutions established by New York State after World War II, of which MVCC was the first to open. They are also reminiscent of the five original member tribes of the Iroquois nation, of which the Mohawks were one. All of the metal work and the finish of the mace was designed and crafted by Alfred Wardle of the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute.

The mace is crowned with a three-inch clear globe in which is embedded a sterling silver moebius band, symbolic of never-ending education, and the arrowhead, pointing skyward.

The mace is used in official ceremonies of the College.

Senate should be considered. Don Kelly has had several discussions with colleagues as a result of the ongoing Middle States review, and stated that two problem areas have come up in these discussions: confusion over the role of the Strategic Planning Committee and poor communication between the SPC and the college community. Joan Andrek stated that using multiple forms of communication, such as print and electronic media, is more effective than relying on a single method. Several possible remedies were discussed for improving communication. These included broadening representation on goal area work groups, identifying work group members to facilitate communication, use of new methods such as podcasts and communications directed at specific audiences. Mike Sewall noted that the SPC has had some successes. Concern was also expressed about the success of communications given the negative climate in the community at large. A suggestion was made that specific work groups be featured in communications specifically targeted to appropriate audiences. Kenisha Groomes-Faulk noted that the Disney Group Committee on Excellence will be making a presentation, focusing on communication. This will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

8. The next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 11 at 8:00 a.m. in Payne Hall, Room 300 and Plumley Complex, Room 209.

9. On a motion by Dan Larson, seconded by Donna Sawyer-White and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.