Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter February 6, 2006

Mayor Brown to Deliver State-of-the-City Address at Rome Campus

Rome Mayor James F. Brown will deliver the annual Stateof-the-City Address Wednesday. February 15th, at the MVCC Rome Campus. The Address is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. in the Plumley Complex Auditorium, and is open to the public. Among many topics, it is anticipated that the Mayor may discuss recent and pending developments at the campus and their impact on residents of the City.

Enriching Our Community for 60 Years



MVCC's first home, the Country Day School is pictured in a photo dated 1944. The road on the bottom of the image is Genesee Street in New Hartford, The school was located next to where Utica **National** Insurance Co. now sits.

MVCC's Residence Halls -Home Away from Home for 500 Students

Mohawk Valley Community College was among the first community colleges in New York State to offer students the opportunity to live on campus. The College's four original residence halls were opened in 1966, and house approximately 360 students. This fall, the newest hall (known for now as "New Hall") came on-line, increasing MVCC's on campus residential population to over 500.

Five hundred students on campus constitute a sizable community. Providing that community with a "holistic college experience" is the job of the staff in the Residence Life Office, led by Director of Student Housing Dennis Gibbons. Gibbons is assisted by senior typist Laurie Winiarski. Sandy Cummings, of the Student Activities Office, joins the Residence Life staff during the summer months as well. (In addition to its work with on-campus residents, the Office of Residence Life also works with landlords, provides lists of apartments to students, although it does not inspect and certify them. If you know of landlords with apartments for rent by students, please encourage them to contact Residence Life.)

The residence halls become the students' home, in every sense of the word, for nine months. While they might spend 20-25 hours a week in class, they spend as much as 140 hours in the residence halls.



Service to Students Begins at the Time of College Acceptance

The staff of the Residence Life Office, under the direction of Dennis Gibbons, Director of Student Housing, begins interacting with potential on-campus residents from the time they are accepted at the College, if they indicate an interest in on-campus housing. They receive a "housing list" from Admissions, and send residence hall application packets to as many as 800 students. Inevitably as many as 300 decide against on-campus residence, but for the others, Residence Life administers a variety of steps including room (and roommate) assignments. Student bills are handled by the Auxiliary Services Corporation.

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MVCC Residence Halls, cont.



The on-campus experience begins with a threeday orientation in the fall, including not only social events but educational programs dealing with issues of living together, sensitivity training, multicultural awareness, use of alcohol and drugs, and sexual activity.

Resident Advisors, Resident Directors

During the academic year, three professional Resident Directors with college degrees are employed; Ushona McLean for New Hall, Jamie Schwabenbauer (pictured above) for the North and David Kramer for South complexes - each consisting of two of the older residence halls joined by a linking corridor. There also are Resident Advisors (RA's), one on each floor in each building, students who receive free room and have half their meal plan supported by Sodexho. On a rotating basis, the RA's provide round-the-clock 24/7 coverage - with someone always on call to deal with problems.

Together, the Resident Advisors, Resident Directors and Gibbons deal throughout the school year with a variety of room (and roommate) problems, issuing and enforcement of guest passes, vandalism, and inappropriate behavior.

Summer a Busy Time

During the summer, when activity on the rest of the campus slows somewhat, things are busy in the residence halls. First, this is a time for major maintenance - a thorough cleaning and other projects. Past summer projects, for example, have included installation of a new fire alarm system, wiring for in-room cable tv, telephones and



Internet service (now outsourced to Northland Communications). Summer is a time when furniture gets replaced, windows are washed, surfaces may be painted, etc. Summer is also a time when the residence halls host other populations, perhaps attendees at a local conference, or Boilermaker competitors.

Ongoing Maintenance & Housekeeping

Maintenance of the residence halls is provided through the Dormitory Corporation, a separate entity. The housekeeping staff includes Paul McBee, Stuart Deane, Bonnie Weatherbee, Gretchen Tyoe, Diane O'Donnell, Flo Noziol, and Christine Rabideau, along with assistance from Mark Murphy(he actually coordinates the maintenance) of the College's Facilities & Operations Department.

Attention to Safety

The College has taken several steps to help ensure security and safety in the residence halls. From 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. every night, Campus continued on page 4



60th Anniversary Snapshots For last week

January 30, 1969 - Writer Alex Haley, co-author of the Autobiography of Malcolm X, spoke at the College. He was at the time a writer-in-residence at Hamilton College, and was working on his more famous book, Roots, which later became a major multi-part television series.

January 31, 1988 - Raul Huerta was Acting Director of the Utica Campus Library. Bonnie Mitchell was Coordinator of the Rome Campus Library. Joanne Werner was Coordinator of Library Instruction.

February 1, 1983 - Dr. Thomas D. Sheldon was appointed acting president through August 31, 1983. He was retired president of Utica College. He served as the College's chief administrative officer while President George Robertson was on a study leave of absence, completing a project for the SUNY Central Administration.

February 2, 1975 - Senior men's soccer captain Perry Nizzi was named to the NJCAA All-American Second Team. Nizzi, a forward, scored 24 goals in his two year career with the MVCC Hawks. He went on to coach HCCC and Hamilton College.

February 3, 1969 - Robert Jorgensen, Physical Education, and Charles Schmidt, Business, were promoted to full professor. Prof. Jorgensen had joined MVTI in 1960. Prof. Schmidt had joined NYSIAAS in 1947.

February 4, 1984 - Professor
Douglas Bauer of the Chemistry
Bauer passed away during heart
bypass surgery in Milwaukee. He
had joined MVCC in 1963, had won
two National Science Foundation
fellowships at RPI, and helped create the Science Laboratory
Technician curriculum - now know
as Chemical Technology. He was
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MID TERM ABSENTEES, Faculty?

With Midterms rapidly approaching, some students will be questioning whether or not they can pass your class. Whether it's absenteeism or personal problems that get in the way of academic success, please forward your students to the Counseling Office (PH 104B)where we can take the time to work through whatever the obstacle is. If we can save even one student from withdrawing, it's worth it. And don't forget, we have a Substance Abuse Specialist as well, willing to address some hard realities if that's what is needed. Keep them in your class. Walk them over to us. Just demonstrating your concern could be keeping them in class.

Faculty and Staff In the News

Dr. George J. Searles (Professor, Humanities) has authored a poem in the new issue of Coe Review, a literary journal published at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Snapshots, cont.

widely known for his highly entertaining "Magic of Chemistry" show.

February 5, 1988 - Assistant

Professor Theodore "Ted" Moore coordinated the 2nd Annual MVCC High School Mathematics

Competition involving students from 15 area high schools. The competition had been initiated during the 1986-87 academic year as part of the College's 40th anniversary celebration.

MVCC Trustee Selected as 2006 Humanitarian of the Year



Michael Austin, an MVCC graduate and member of the Board of Trustees, has been selected by the Utica Chapter of the American Red Cross as its 2006 Humanitarian of the Year.

Austin, a 1974 graduate in Liberal Arts & Sciences, will be recognized at the year's Fire & Ice Tribute to Humanity gala event, March 30th, at Harts Hill Inn. Among the reasons for his selection was his role in assisting the United Way with organizing a telethon to raise money for the victims of 911, and helping with the Red Cross's telethon for Hurricane Katrina victims. He is also active in volunteer and leadership capacities with many other area charitable organizations.

"March Madness" Comes to MVCC: NJCAA Division III Women's National Basketball Championship Tournament March 16-18

The National Junior College Athletic Association Division III National Women's Basketball Championship Tournament will be played at MVCC's Utica Campus March 16-18. Eight of the best community college women's basketball teams in the nation will come to MVCC to decide a national champ for the 2005-2006 season. Games will take place at 1 pm, 3 pm, 6 pm, and 8 pm each day, with the championship game at 8 pm Saturday, March 18th. Special souvenir t-shirts will be available for purchase. Admission will be \$5 per session (1 pm and 3 pm games or 6 pm and 8 pm games on one day), or \$7 per day, or \$18 for the entire tournament.

CCED Offers a Variety of Fun, Non-Credit Classes

Got some extra time on your hands? Want to try something fun for the new year? CCED has a wide variety of non-credit leisure classes offered on both the Utica and Rome campuses. The following classes still have room and will be starting this week-

"La Cucina Italia!"

Turn your kitchen into an Italian CucinaTurn your kitchen into an Italian kitchen, rich with the tastes and aromas of Carmelann Scalzo's secret family recipes!

Mon 2/6 – 2/27

6:00-9:00 PM \$120

Basic Obedience Dog Training

Have you ever been to dog training classes with little or no success? This course will give you fast and sure results using motivational techniques to teach you and your dog how to perform a basic obedience routine.

Tu 2/7 to 3/14

5:30-7:30 PM

\$100

Advanced Obedience Dog Training

This course in designed for individuals who already have a dog trained in basic obedience (sit, stay, down, come, heel on a 6' leash).

Tu 2/7 to 3/28

7:30-9:30 PM

\$125

Snowmobiling Safety Course

If you love the snow and being on your sled, join us for new and updated safety from New York State. NYS is a leader in snowmobile education and together we want everyone safe.

Rome Sa 2/11 9-5PM

Rome Tu 2/21 9-5 PM Room PCA 10

MVCC Residence Halls, cont.

Security Officer Gary Rogowski patrols the residence hall area, including suite visits with a Resident Assistant every evening. Security cameras and lighting have been put in place at strategic locations. Each fall, several College officials, including Gibbons, President Schafer, Vice President DiGiorgio, Campus Security Chief Joseph Palmer and Facilities & Operations Director John Zegarelli and Assistant Director Mike McHarris do a night-time "safety walk" to identify potential hazards for attention. Fire inspections and fire drills are also held on a regular basis, in compliance with State Education Law. The residence halls are also equipped with emergency generators for use in case of a power failure.

A Lottery for Second-Year Housing

The original residence halls are used primarily by first-year students. while returning students are served by New Hall with its five-person suites and air conditioning. Each year, there is a lottery to determine which returning students will be given rooms for a second year. Currently the population is about 40% returning students vs. 60% new students - although after a year of operation with New Hall the mix will be evaluated and the ratio could change.

Residence Halls Seen as a Recruitment Asset

Traditionally, community colleges have been viewed as primarily commuter campuses, where students leave at the end of the day and the facility closes down for the night like a business. In recent years, many community colleges have added on campus housing. At MVCC, according to Gibbons, the availability of on-campus housing is an asset in attracting students from outside the area, especially international students. "Beyond that," he says, "the existence of residence halls changes the feeling of the campus entirely, and makes it much more like a traditional college campus."

Volunteers Needed

The MVCC Foundation is looking for volunteers for the spring semester 2005 - 2006 Annual Fund Phonathon, Providing Choices, Fulfilling Dreams. Volunteers would either make calls to potential donors or participate in a thank-a-thon, thanking individuals who have already made donations to the college.

Also, if any faculty or staff know of a student that is in need of a job and think that they would be a good candidate for a position on our phonathon team, please have them contact Denise Flihan (Ext. 5797) or Marie Kohl (Ext. 5340).

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 2/7

~ BSU Soul Food Feast, 11:00am-1:00pm, ACC 116. Speaker, Cassandra Harris-Lockwood. \$2 student; \$3 faculty and staff.

~ Hockey vs. SUNY Canton, 7:00pm, Utica Aud. Wednesday, 2/8

~ Rome Student Activities Association Club Awareness Day, 10:00am-2:00pm, PC Atrium, Rome Campus.

~ Author Alan Foote's "Gateway to Freedom: The American Revolution on the Northern Frontier" book discussion, 7:00pm, IT 225.

~Hospitality theme dinner, "Recipes of Rachel Ray: Upstate New York's Celebrity Chef," 6:00pm, \$18. Call X7702 for reservations.

Friday, 2/10

~ "Cooking with Love" lecturedemonstration by the "Love Chef" Francis Anthony, 7:00pm, IT Theater.

Saturday, 2/11

~ Women's Basketball vs. Hudson-Valley CC, 1:00pm, Gym.

~ Men's Basketball vs. Hudson-Valley CC, 3:00pm, Gym.

Sunday, 2/12

~ Hockey vs. Erie CC, 5:00pm, Utica Aud.

Monday, 2/13

~ Cultural Series Event: MOVIE: "Hero," 7:00pm, IT Theater. Tuesday, 2/14

~ African-American Storyteller, Shindana Cooper, Noon, MV Commons.

Wednesday, 2/15

~ Rome Business and Professional Women's Group Meeting, 5:30pm-6:30pm, RA108.

~Hospitality theme dinner, "St. Valentine's Day Delights," 6:00pm, \$18. Call X7702 for reservations. Thursday, 2/16

~ Women's Basketball vs. Schenectady CCC, 5:00pm, Gym. ~ Men's Basketball vs.

Schenectady CCC, 7:00pm, Gym. Friday, 2/17

~ Cultural Series Event: MUSIC: New York City Band "Pistolera," 8:00pm, MV Commons.

Saturday, 2/18

~ Women's Basketball vs. Herkimer CCC, 1:00pm, Gym.

~ Men's Basketball vs. Herkimer CCC, 3:00pm, Gym.