

Dr. Randall VanWagoner named MVCC President

Dr. Randall VanWagoner was named president of Mohawk Valley Community College and approved by the MVCC Board of Trustees on Monday during a special meeting in the Board Room on the Third Floor of Payne Hall.

Dr. VanWagoner becomes the fifth president of the college in its 60-year history as successor to Dr. Michael I. Schafer (1983-2007), who retires on June 30, 2007 after 24 years at the helm. Dr. VanWagoner will begin as MVCC President on July 2, 2007.

The previous college presidents were Dr. Albert Payne (1953-1968), Dr. W. Stewart Tosh (1968-1974), and Dr. George H. Robertson (1974-1983).

Dr. VanWagoner is currently the Vice President for Learning and Academic Affairs at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska, which has an annual full-time enrollment of 9,500 students. He is in his eighth academic year in that position where he has responsibility for all instructional programs and academic support services.

Prior to his current position, Dr. VanWagoner worked at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colorado where he held positions of Dean of Educational Support Services, Registrar, and Director of Institutional Research and Planning. He has taught computer applications as an adjunct faculty member in both online and classroom settings. He is currently the President of the National Council of Instructional Administrators – the largest affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges – and has published and presented widely on a range of community college issues.

Dr. VanWagoner received his Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in Higher Education, with an emphasis in Community College Administration, from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and received a B.A. in Communications from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.



NEW PRESIDENT - Dr. Randall VanWagoner addresses faculty, staff and students who gathered to greet him during the special board meet-

ing held Monday, in Payne Hall. Joining him are MVCC Board of Trustees Elaine M. Falvo and Mary-Carmel Wolf.



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Dinners with Distinction features 'The Last Dinner on the Titanic'

In the tradition of the Titanic's grandness and the legend that surrounds the ship, MVCC's Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts Program will satisfy the most sophisticated pallet during "The Last Dinner on the Titanic" on Wednesday, April 18, as the annual fundraiser for the Dinners with Distinction Series in the Hospitality Dining Room on the Rome Campus.

The menu and dining room décor will follow the theme of the White Star Lines' Royal Mail Steamer (RMS) featuring the last meal served on the Titanic. This event, which begins at 6:00 p.m., is designed to enable the Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts students to showcase their expertise in the Hospitality field.

At the beginning of each semester, the students decide on a theme for each of the four meals, develop a menu, procurement of recipes and then work in the labs to perfect these recipes before "going live."

"Students will do everything from arrange purchase orders to figure how much food will be needed. Complete set up and tear down," said Bruce Neil, Department Head of the Hospitality Department. "This process helps to bring out each student's creative talents which are then incorporated into the program."

In the story of the Titanic, the ship not only represented the best technologies of 1912, but finest food and drink. Everything about the Titanic was big with the cuisine being equally impressive.

On the evening of April 14, 1912, first-class passengers settled in for a sumptuous 10-course extravaganza. First-class passengers paid the equivalent of \$124,000 in today's dollars for the ocean voyage. The first-class passengers dined on oysters, salmon, lamb and squab along with a fine wine being served with each course on only the finest china, crystal and flatware.

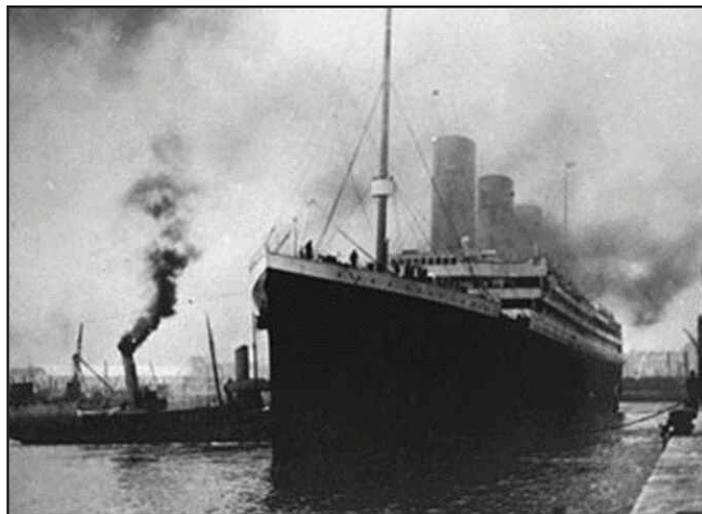
Little did the passengers know that at 11:40 p.m. on April 14, the RMS Titanic would strike an iceberg some 400 miles off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada. Although warned of icebergs by other ships navigating the region, the Titanic was traveling at near top speed of 20 knots when one grazed her side.

Within three hours, the marvel plunged to the bottom of the ocean, taking more than 1,500 people with her. The ship's manifest listed 2,228 passengers and crew of which only 705 survived.

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MVCC is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education to offer 64 associate degrees and 40 certificate programs through its two campuses. MVCC was founded in 1946 as the New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences at Utica and became the first community college established in New York State.

The college has evolved over the years to feature 20 inter-collegiate athletic programs for men and women.



SET SAIL – The RMS Titanic prepares to lead the docks at Southampton on April 10, 1912.

MVCC Campus Events

Wednesday, April 18

- Dinners With Distinction - "The Last Dinner on the Titanic," Rome Hospitality Dining Room 108, 6:00 pm
- Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 pm
- History of Rome Lecture Series III: "Influential Romans," PC Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116, 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 19

- Patient Care Technician Classes, PC 240, 8:00 am
- Franklin University Representatives, PH 300, 9:00-10:00 am & 12:30-1:30 pm; AB Lobby, 10:00 am-10:30 pm
- The Lloyd Dobler Effect Band, MV Commons, Noon
- Softball hosts Schenectady CCC, 3:00 pm
- Lacrosse at Jefferson CC, 4:00 pm
- Baseball hosts Colgate Club at Donovan Stadium, 4:30 pm
- Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 20

- Patient Care Technician Classes, PC 240, 8:00 am
- Earth Day Celebration, PC Atrium, 10:00 am
- MVCC Chess Club, ACC 114, 3:00 pm
- Student Gaming Club Conference, MV Commons, 4:00 pm
- Cultural Series: Faculty and Staff Poetry Reading, PH 102, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 21

- Student Gaming Club Conference, MV Commons, 9:00 am
- Track & Field at Hamilton College, 10:00 am
- Teen Job and Volunteer Fair, PC Atrium & PC A10, 11:00 am
- Baseball at SUNY Cobleskill, 1:00 pm
- Softball hosts SUNY Delhi, 1:00 pm
- Tennis hosts Holyoke, 1:00 pm

Sunday, April 22

- Student Gaming Club Conference, MV Commons, 8:00 am
- Lacrosse hosts Onondaga CC, 1:00 pm
- Baseball hosts Finger Lakes CC at Donovan Stadium, 1:00 pm
- Softball hosts Tompkins-Cortland CC, 1:00 pm

Campus safety discussed at forum

In the wake of regional and national tragedies, MVCC held a forum addressing campus safety concerns voiced by students in the IT Theater on Tuesday. The college community was shaken by last week's fatal shooting of Utica Police Officer Thomas Lindsey and then the nation was shocked by Monday's shootings at Virginia Tech that left 31 students and faculty dead.

Taking part in the question and answer session representing the college were Dr. Dan Larson, Vice President for Instruction; Denise DiGiorgio, Vice President of Student Services; Ralph Feola, Vice President Administrative Services; Joseph Palmer, Director of Campus Safety & Security; Rose Button, Assistant Dean of Counseling; counselor Maimun Khan; counselor Jim Maio; Marianne Buttenschon, Department Head for Social Sciences; Professor Beverly Quist, Social Sciences; Professor James Smrtic, Psychology, Human Services & Education; Dennis Gibbons, Director of Student Housing; and Jamie Schwabenbauer, Residence Life.

The event began with a moment of silence for Officer Lindsey, who graduated from MVCC in May 2001, followed by many questions from the student body as well over 150 people



SEEKING ANSWERS – Darren R. Cummings, an MVCC student from New York City, asks a question during the campus safety forum in the IT Theater on Tuesday.

were in attendance.

Chief Palmer discussed the plans for an emergency broadcast system for both campuses and pointed out the many obstacles the college faces in developing such a system. One such obstacle is the lack of telephones in each classroom. He informed students that emergencies would be handled in the same fashion as if there was a fire and if there were an "active shooter" in

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OFFERING HELP – Professor Beverly Quist, Social Sciences Department, looks on as Rose Button, Assistant Dean of Counseling, answers a question from the audience in the IT Theater.

Tragedy: Where do I go? What do I do?

MVCC Counseling Center, Payne Hall Student Services, 792-5326

Rome Campus: Student Services PC A30; 334-7709

1.) Keep busy! Focus on your projects and classroom assignments! Research indicates keeping focused on day to day required tasks or routines helps mitigate the effects of stress.

2. Seek out persons who care for and support you. Share your reactions, thoughts and how the experience impacted you.

3.) Know that the reactions to trauma described are normal responses to a very abnormal experience. They occur in varying degrees of severity and type for each person.

4.) Limit the amount of time that you watch details about the tragedy on TV.

5.) "Baby yourself" – eat well, get your sleep, and do nurturing things.

6.) Express your feelings with your art! Drawings, poetry etc. are all healthy ways to manage the feelings related to trauma.

7.) Consider writing a journal of your experience or feelings.

8.) Seek to gain perspective on the experience.

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one of the buildings, all students would be told to leave the campus.

Ms. Khan fielded questions on signs to look for. Changes in behavior and body language are the most notable, or show signs of depression or anger. She pointed out it could be things the person starts to talk about, so it is important to listen and recognize the signs.

Ms. Button informed students the counseling center is always there to help whether dealing with personal problems or the pressure caused due to academic issues.

Resident students voiced concerns within the dorms. Mr. Gibbons discussed the dormitory evacuation plan which is currently in place. He informed students that transportation and facilities are in place that it would take just 30 minutes for the "Crisis Team" to have all students out of harm's way.

The "Crisis Team" consists of the college president, vice-presidents, security personnel and administrators. Chief Palmer reminded resident students that there is a security officer patrolling the dorms every night from 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. and if they see something suspicious that they should contact the officer.

Staff development funding remains

The Staff Development Committee has a small pot of money for Summer project funding. The purpose of this is to encourage, and provide financial support to, faculty and staff who wish to go above and beyond their normal work duties to develop new materials/techniques/procedures which will further the college's mission of providing an effective learning environment both in and out of the classroom.

Each proposal must include:

- a) A clear statement of the objective(s) of your project.
- b) A statement of how you plan to achieve your objective(s).
- c) A statement of how you plan to assess your project based upon your stated objectives.
- d) A statement of why you believe that this project will include work that is "above and beyond" your normal job duties.
- e) The date of expected completion.
- f) The amount of funding requested and any financial support from sources other than Staff Development
- g) One or more letters of support from the appropriate administrator(s). The letter(s) should include (1) the project's benefit to the college and (2) to what extent this project requires the participant to perform duties which are "above and beyond" their normal job duties.

Hard copies of these proposal forms may be obtained from the VP for Instruction's Office. Please submit the proposals to Julie Dewan in the Mathematics Department.

The deadline for these proposals is April 27, 2007.

Strategic Planning meeting

The next meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 23, at noon in Payne Hall, Room 300 and Plumley Complex, Room 209.

The agenda is below. These meetings are open to all members of the college community, and all are invited to attend.

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public comments
3. Approval of the Minutes of the April 9, Meeting
4. Strategic Planning Committee Membership
5. Duties of Strategic Planning Committee Members
6. Status of 2006-2007 Priority Objectives:
 - a. Internal Communication and External Marketing
 - b. Rome Campus

MVCC Rome celebrates Earth Day with tree planting; Green Campus Task Force promotes conservation

Mohawk Valley Community College will mark Earth Day, April 22, with events over five days on both the Utica and Rome Campuses.

With global warming considered a serious threat to the world's environment, the Rome Student Activities Association and Returning Adult Student Association will recognize Earth Day with a tree planting on Friday, April 20, at 12:00 p.m. noon on the Rome Campus by the Plumley Complex. This ceremony is open and free to the public with City of Rome and MVCC representatives in attendance.

This tree, which has been provided by ACE Hardware in Rome, will symbolize the hope that, as a town, a country, and a part of humanity, we can combat the dangers that threaten the environment and earth. A reception will follow in the Plumley Complex Atrium. We hope to show the community that, though we must fight climate change on a global scale, a first

step in the right direction can lie in a single tree.

On Monday and Tuesday, April 23-24, the Green Campus Task Force will have tables full of information promoting "Recycling, Reuse and Reduce" materials and video in the lobby of the Academic Building on the Utica Campus.

The Green Campus Task Force consists of four groups, each of which study ways to conserve resources at MVCC.

The groups' focuses are: Education on benefits of a green campus; Improvement of Recycle-Reduce-Reuse programs through additional blue bins in offices and classrooms; Recycling of aluminum, glass and plastic containers; Conservation of way to cut down on electric usage on campus.

The Green Campus Task Force will compile the information and present a report to the College Senate at the May meeting.