

Communitas



MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

December 10, 2007

Keeping the 'Open Door' open: Building a legacy of ACCESS

Imagine if you had no options for improving your life – no support for enrolling in college, no additional resources to pay for classes, books, or other educational needs. Where would you turn?

As part of the MVCC Foundation Annual Fund Appeal to Faculty and Staff, we invite you to consider the ACCESS Fund. The ACCESS Fund is a new, vital part of the comprehensive financial aid program offered to MVCC students. While MVCC has demonstrated a long history of providing financial support to our students, continuing to provide the means for students to attend MVCC is - and must be - a long-standing commitment.

To make this access a reality, we need your help.

More than 40 percent of MVCC students come from families who earn more than \$35,000 – which prevents them from qualifying for the maximum amount of tuition assistance from the NY State Tuition Assistance Program.

For these students whose family income exceeds the limits for maximum TAP awards, MVCC will contribute \$250 or \$500, depending upon identified need, toward tuition and fees.

For students whose family income exceeds the national poverty threshold, but qualify for the maximum amount available from federal and state tuition assistance programs, additional scholarship assistance from The ACCESS Fund will be made available for books, transportation, and other school related expenses.

Who qualifies for The ACCESS Fund? To be eligible for The ACCESS Fund, a student must:

- Be a New York State Resident
- Be eligible for the federal Pell Grant Program or the state Tuition Assistance Program
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the annual deadline
- Enroll full time.
- Be pursuing a degree or certificate
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress while at MVCC (defined as a GPA of 2.5 or better; minimum of 18 credits per year)
- Reapply each year they are enrolled at MVCC

To learn more about the ACCESS fund at MVCC, please join us for one of our upcoming information sessions:

December 13 at 2:00 p.m., Payne Hall Room 300



READY FOR A WHITE CHRISTMAS? - Mother Nature has been busy decorating MVCC's Utica Campus for a white Christmas as the region has been experiencing snow showers since the end of November. As seen here, the College's quad has a good four-to-six inches of snow on the grass as students prepare for their final exams and the holiday break.

Administrators during the holiday vacation

For those employees working during the December break: The following administrators will be in charge of the College during the break. Please contact them if you encounter any difficulties or emergencies:

Monday, Dec. 24: VP Ralph Feola – ext. 5445

Wed., Dec. 26: President VanWagoner – ext. 5333

Thursday, Dec. 27: Paul Katchmar – ext. 5510

Friday, Dec. 28: Paul Katchmar - ext. 5510, or
Sarah Beth Lardie – ext. 5526

Monday, Dec. 31: VP Sandra Engel – ext. 5301

December 14, at 11:00 a.m., Payne Hall Room 300

December 19, at 2:00 p.m., Rome Campus, Plumley Auditorium

December 20, at 11:30 a.m., Payne Hall Room 300

Please help us keep the doors to MVCC open for the students who need us the most. Your support of the MVCC Foundation Annual Fund Appeal to Faculty and Staff and in particular, your support of the ACCESS Fund is greatly appreciated.

MVCC Campus Events

Wednesday, December 12

College Works, PH 104F, 12:00 p.m.
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
Concert: Utica Symphony Orchestra, Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
Ice Hockey hosts Monroe CC at Utica Aud., 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 13

High School Program, IT 225, 3:30 p.m.
Keuka College Representative, ACC 212, 6:00 p.m.
Women's Basketball at Hudson Valley CC, 6:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball at Hudson Valley CC, 8:00 p.m.

Friday, December 14

Student Congress, ACC 212, 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 15

Placement Testing, Rome's PC252, 9:00 a.m.
Performance: The Nutcracker, Theatre, 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 16

Stage Performance: The Nutcracker, Theatre, 2:00 p.m.

Monday, December 17

Board of Trustees Meeting, PH 300, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19

Institutional Advancement, PC A10, 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 20

Winter Commencement Ceremony, Theatre, 6:00 p.m.

Holiday notification from the Payroll Office

Due to the Christmas holiday falling on Tuesday this year, payroll checks for the final pay-period of 2007 will be dated Friday, December 21. Checks will be available for pickup at the Payroll Office (Payne Hall 104G) after 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 20, and during normal working hours, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., on Friday, December 21.

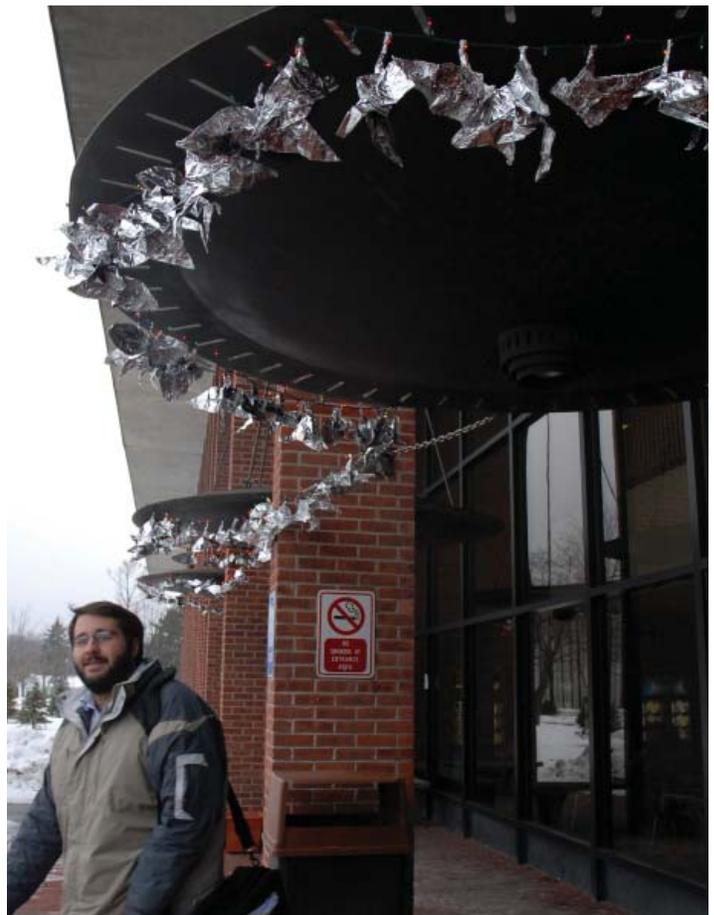
The Payroll Office will be closed Monday, December 24, and Tuesday, December 25. It will reopen for business on Wednesday, December 26, through Friday, December 28, during the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Grimes-Przelomiec receives award from Rome College Foundation

MVCC's Seldon Grimes-Przelomiec was one of four area college students to receive the \$1,000 Mid-Career Incentive Awards from the Rome College Foundation.

The annual awards are based on academic achievement, citizenship and need for students with home addresses within the Rome School District. The four awards go to students attending MVCC, SUNY-IT, Utica College and Hamilton College.

Grimes-Przelomiec is a Criminal Justice Major at MVCC.



1,000 Origami Cranes displayed on campus

The College's Fine Arts Club created 1,000 Origami Cranes and displayed a portion of them on the entrance of the Academic Building on the Utica Campus as a project to brighten up the campus during the winter months, according to Assistant Professor Christi Harrington.

This was the brainchild of fine arts student Matthew Hiegle. His original suggestion was to create colorful origami, but since most paper is not weatherproof, it was decided to use foil. Colored lights were added along with the artwork in order to reflect the colors in the evenings.

The cost of this project was covered by Sandy Cummings and the Student Congress. The Student Congress is allowing the Fine Arts Club to set up other Origami Cranes in the Alumni College Center's cafeteria.

"We invited the student body to learn how to make cranes and help us reach our goal of 1,000," says Harrington.

Origami Cranes are a Japanese tradition and according to lore, making a thousand cranes will allow wishes to come true. The Fine Arts Club decided to wish for a peaceful holiday and good weather for the Spring, says Harrington.

The final installation of Cranes will be this week in the front of the Alumni College Center.

Busic-Snyder explores history of typography in textbook

The evolution of typography is as diverse, intriguing, complicated and twisted as that of mankind's growth. It's these characteristics that have intrigued and drawn Associate Professor Cynthia Busic-Snyder into working on the Second and Third Editions of a textbook on the history of typography.



Busic-Snyder

"I'm particularly fond of studies that have to do with color theory typography," said Mrs. Busic-Snyder. "It was a good area for me to explore in order to better understand the contemporary composition in typography."

Mrs. Busic-Snyder is wrapping up her work on the Third Edition of *A Typographic Workbook: A Primer to History, Techniques and Artistry*. Her work will be submitted to her publisher, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. out of New Jersey, by January 15, and going to press by early Spring. The textbook will be available for the Fall semester.

The textbook deals with the foundation of typography. It looks at the anatomy of type and the "little pieces" of letter forms which make up modern character appearance.

In comparison to most traditional typography books which cover the forms of type and what they are called, this book offers a unique approach to typography by going into depth on the history of how different typefaces and type setting processes evolved.

"There are visual charts to enable students to see the relationships of how such symbols such as the letter "A" went from representing an object changed into a letter form that can be

combined with other letters for new meanings relative to that object," says Mrs. Busic-Snyder.

According to Mrs. Busic-Snyder, professors at different colleges feel that giving students a historical background helps them have a better understanding in their fields of study.

"This textbook also provides visual inspiration for students that may want to go into print design as a specialty. If you look at a lot of the traditional, especially the digital fonts, you can trace a lot of the variations to an inspiration from a historical source."

This textbook was originally written by Kutztown University Professor Kate Clair. Her style was to have a different font on each page to represent the evolution of typography. This created a problem with the flow of the text and proved difficult for the readers.

Mrs. Busic-Snyder was hired by the publisher to rewrite much of the copy for the Second Edition as well as research historical facts, finding many inconsistencies. She also simplified the layout to make the information flow better with a consistent font.

Her other contribution was to add three appendix sections covering Glossary, Font Samples, and Type Foundries, Designers and Distributors.

This Second Edition is currently being translated into Portuguese.

"Hopefully exposing them to the history of typography at an early stage in their education will put a little spark in them later in their careers," says Mrs. Busic-Snyder. "This has been a really good learning experience as far as the publishing process."

In the Third Edition revisions, Mrs. Busic-Snyder is verifying other historical data and has reworked "Chapter 9:

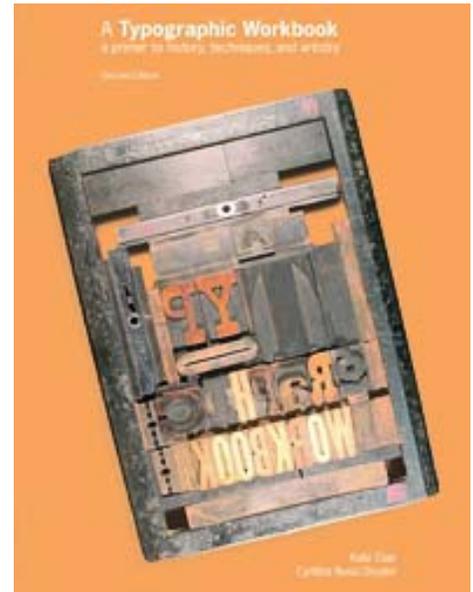


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Type Identification and Classification," which covers standards for styles of typography. She has also expanded the information on digital fonts while adding more timeline visuals to give readers more perspective on the historic facts and landmarks.

The Learning Center is offering tutoring during the Inter-session period from January 2 - 18. Here are the schedules.

Tutors	e-mail addresses	Subjects	Hours	Days	Location
Kristen Raab	kraab@mvcc.edu	Writing	9:00-2:00	M/T/W/TH	AB151
Ibrahim Rosic	irosic@mvcc.edu	Math	8:00-4:00	M/T/W/TH/F	AB151



MVCC Nurses attend career day in Sauquoit

Pam Fess, MSN, and Lisa Rieth, RN, were invited to participate in a career day at Sauquoit Valley Middle School on Friday, November 2.

The students were inquisitive about nursing as a profession, asking many questions while others told of family medical stories. The MVCC faculty emphasized the some of the current trends in nursing and addressed the challenges and rewards of a nursing career.

The faculty also addressed the importance of students taking science and math courses in high school in order to academically prepare them for the rigors of nursing.



Nursing students in fight against flu

The MVCC freshman nursing students and instructors volunteered their service in the community again this year. The students administered over 1,000 flu vaccines to employees at Faxton-St. Lukes Healthcare and to the MVCC community.

Several recipients of the injection complemented the students on their skill and their willingness to share information about vaccine.

Thank you to everyone who participated. This experience proved to be beneficial to our students by increasing their confidence level in the administration of an injection and helped the community to safe-guard against the flu virus.

Volunteers sought to take part in IRA's VITA assistance program

In collaboration with the Resource Center for Independent Living, MVCC is assisting with this year's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program by seeking volunteers to take part.

VITA is an IRS-sponsored program that recruits and trains volunteers to prepare basic tax returns for people with incomes of \$39,000 or less. VITA annually helps millions of taxpayers nationwide.

Training generally lasts one week, with the next session being held January 8-10, and January 29-30. Training will include basic income tax law for federal and state, along with use of Forms 1040 and 1040EZ and related Schedules such as A, B and C-EZ. They will also be trained on how to prepare tax returns using computers.

Volunteers receive free classroom

materials and job aids.

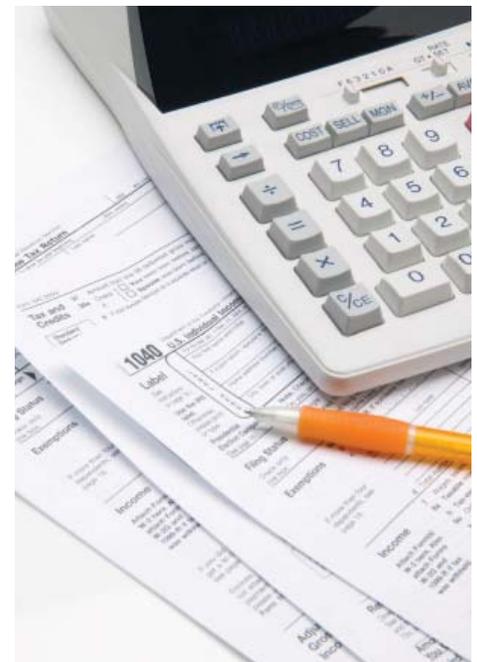
Volunteers will assist these taxpayers from February 1 to April 15, for about 2-4 hours a week.

Last year, VITA assisted 829 taxpayers with tax returns in Oneida County and helped taxpayers receive approximately \$1.3 million in combined federal and state refunds.

Other ways volunteers can participate include serving as VITA site coordinators, publicity for the assistance sites, serving as screeners on site and serving as quality reviewers.

Please email Jude Toukatly at jtoukatly@mvcc.edu to volunteer or for more information.

In the community, contact Danell Libby, Project Coordinator for the Mohawk Valley Asset Building Coalition, at 797-4642, ext. 1888.





SANTA'S HELPERS - Presents piled up in the Kiddie Campus office as the "Adopt A Child" program proved to be a huge success.

'Adopt A Child' a huge success

The College's annual "Adopt A Child" program at the Kiddie Campus was a huge success this year with each of the children taking part receiving several gifts for the holiday season.

"I am just so impressed, amazed and proud of the college community's response to this," said Jeri George, Director of Child Care Services. "This is something the college community wants to do and enjoys doing for the children."

This year's program coordinator was Robin Saxe. Of the 32 students at the Kiddie Campus, 28 families participated.

The Kiddie Campus campers were adopted by individuals as well as by different departments and offices throughout the college.

"We had such an overwhelming response that we were able to give to students with larger families a gift for their sibling at home," said George. "Parents were there with tears in their eyes and very appreciative of what was done for their child."

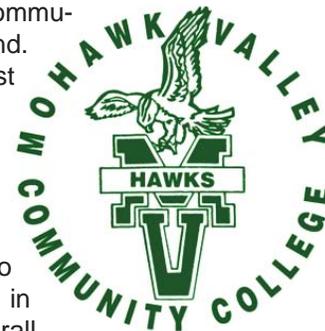
The gifts ranged from clothing items to books, toys to items the children were interested in. The children will receive the gifts on Christmas.

With the help of the Student Congress, the Kiddie Campus was able to purchase bags of candy for the children and present them with two tickets each to the Uptown Theater on Genesee Street.

Hawks hockey skates past Broome to split for the week

The College's ice hockey team split this week's action with a decisive victory over Broome Community College, 13-3, before falling to North Country Community College, 7-0, over the weekend.

Leading the Hawks against Broome was freshman forward Kevin McCreedy with two goals and two assists. Also scoring for MVCC was sophomore forward Jordan Anderson and freshman defenseman Mike Mason with two goals each. MVCC is now 6-2-1 in NJCAA's Region III and 9-4-1 overall.



Women's Basketball: The Lady Hawks, ranked No. 10 in the NJCAA National Poll, won two of three games this week with a 63-52 victory over Onondaga Community College and 61-32 win over Schenectady County Community College before falling to Genesee Community College, 70-60.



Morgan

OCC was previously undefeated going into this game as sophomore forward Samantha Morgan dominated the game with 16 points, 14 rebounds and six blocked shots. Freshman guard Lauren "Gracie" Plagainos was top gun with 19 points while sophomore forward Shantel Dunston hit double figures with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Morgan also tallied 13 points with eight rebounds against Schenectady while freshman forward Melissa St. Louis added 10 points along with 14 rebounds and six assists. In the Genesee game, sophomore guard Tonisha Kirby scored 12 points as sophomore point guard Shanai Norman finished with 11. MVCC is now 9-2 on the season.

Men's Basketball: Freshman guard Ronald Tarver stepped up for the Hawks in an 83-78 victory over Genesee CC with 27 points. Sophomore forward Joel Almeida added 26 points with 17 rebounds.

MVCC, 4-7 in Region III and 5-7 overall, dropped two other games, 86-75 to Onondaga and 87-84 in overtime to Schenectady. Almeida scored 30 points and grabbed 17 rebounds against Schenectady while freshman guard Pat Corbin tallied 17 points. Corbin also led the Hawks against OCC with 30 points while freshman guard Andrew Strittmatter finished with 16 points.



Almeida

Athlete of the Week: The MVCC Athlete of the Week for the week ending December 9, 2007, is Joel Almeida. He had three outstanding performances for the men's basketball team, averaging 22 points and 15 rebounds. Almeida is a Liberal Arts major.

Upward Bound launched at MVCC



MVCC's Upward Bound Program officially launched Thursday, December 6, with state, local and college officials joining in the celebration with the students who will be participating.

Upward Bound is a federally funded grant program that is sponsored in part by the Department of Education, MVCC, Oneida County Workforce Development and the Utica City School District. This four-year academic college enrichment program takes 60 ninth-grade students from Proctor High School and help them develop the skills necessary to enter college, pursue a degree and graduate successfully.



Kubica

The Students' classes will also prepare them for the PSAT/SAT exams.

"Spirit has to do with heart and soul," said Todd Kubica, Upward Bound Project Director. "This is just the beginning of the journey for these students and their other life that awaits them on the other side of the door."

On hand for the ceremony were Sheila Vandever, William S. Calli, Jr., and David Mathis from the College's Board of Trustees, along with President Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner. New York State Senator Joseph Griffo was joined by Oneida County Legislator Daniel N. LaBella.



Eligibility for this program includes having parents lacking a 4-year college degree, family income meets the Federal Low Income Guidelines, and students holding a minimum of a 2.5 grade point

average.

These students will receive tutoring in mathematics, science and English along with being exposed to different cultures and cultural events. When the time comes, visits to college campuses will be arranged and the students will receive assistance in completing the necessary admission applications.

The other members of the Upward Bound staff are Rhona Patterson, Upward Bound Program Coordinator, and Kevin Holochwost, Upward Bound Tutor/Mentor.

Hysell talks on diabetes

Bill Hysell, Acting Humanities Department Head, gave a presentation and workshop on "Coping with Diabetes" for the Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) group in Camden on Monday, November 26, as part of the College Speakers Bureau.

Mr. Hysell was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes eight years ago, having to adjust his lifestyle to accommodate his health requirements. During his discussion, attended by more than 20 people ranging in age from 20 to 60, Mr. Hysell explained his strategy on handling diabetes in terms of diet, exercise and setting up a support network of health professionals.

There are nearly 23 million people living with Type 2 diabetes, which occurs later in adulthood.

He talked about how diabetes changes people's lives and shared some of his own life experiences.



Hysell