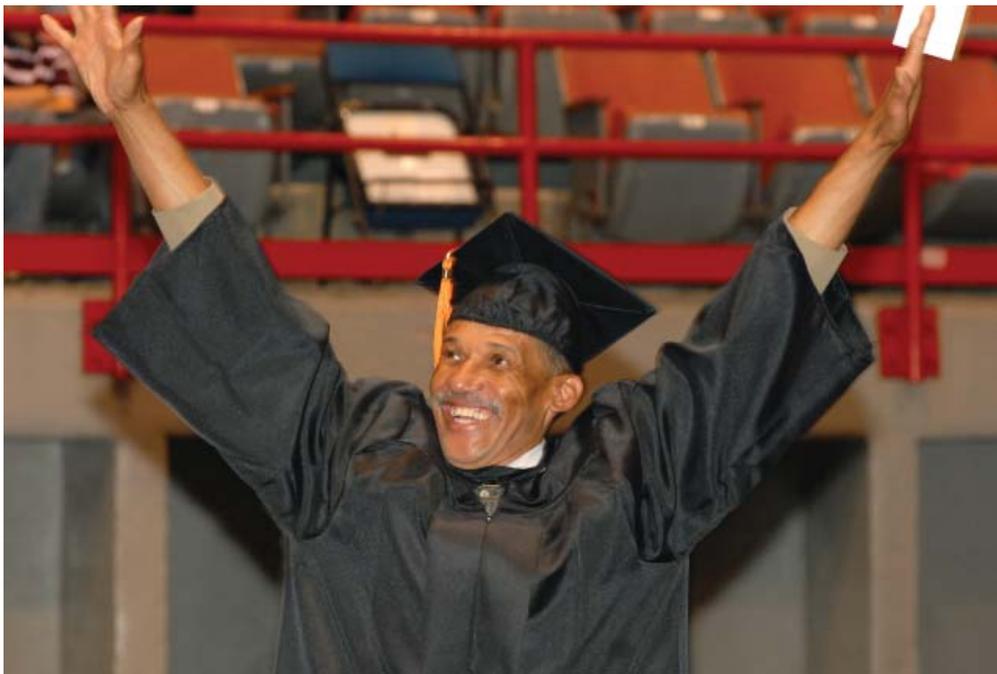


## MVCC'S CLASS OF 2007



The Utica Memorial Auditorium was filled with cheers, smiles and tears of delight Friday evening as the Class of 2007 celebrated during Commencement.

This year saw MVCC mark its 60th anniversary, the launch of the Robert Jorgensen athletic complex campaign, the hiring of a new College president and the retirement of Dr. Michael I. Schaffer.

MVCC's newest class of alumni listened as world-renowned poet, writer, activist, and educator Nikki Giovanni delivered an inspirational message of never surrendering to fears and adversity.

**MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6**

### 4 receive Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Four students from Mohawk Valley Community College were selected to receive the 2007 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. All four students were part of the May 2007 graduating class. They are Selma Mujevic, David Pokon, Gary Broadhurst Jr., and Jessica Hanmer.

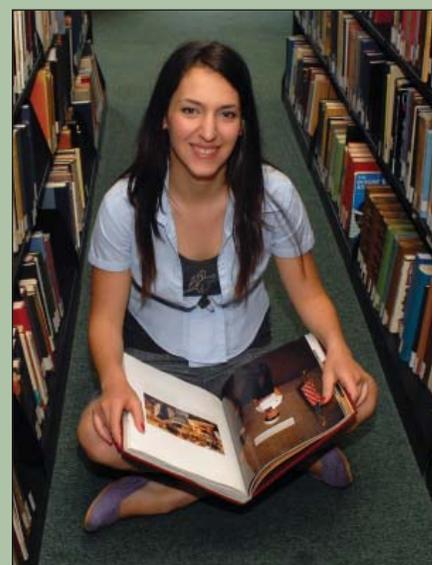
The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence acknowledges students who have demonstrated the integration of academic excellence with other aspects of their lives, which include arts, athletics, career achievement, community service, and leadership.

Selma Mujevic graduated from Thomas R. Proctor High School after emigrating to Utica from Montenegro with her family. She is a dual-major

student with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.98. She earned an Associate in Applied Science for Media Marketing and Advertising Management for which she will receive a diploma this spring. Her second degree, an Associate in Science for Liberal Arts and Sciences, will be completed in December.

Mujevic is the recipient of the National Dean's List, Who's Who Among Students, SUNY Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship, The President's List, and Phi Theta Kappa. Her leadership activities include serving as the Student Congress Program Board Director, Executive Member of Student Congress, Elected Student

**Chancellor's Awards Continued on Page 2**



Selma Mujevic



**COLLEGE WORKS GRADUATES** – From Left are Amanda Davies, Mark Yarwood, Mary Robinson, Frank Cook, Jr., Merisa Dervisevic, Alena Pan-ara, Krista Dickson, Deana Small, Deanna English, Mukta Hoke, Matthew Altieri, Rebecca Myers, Jason Smith and Katie Tolentino.

## College Works graduates first group of students

A ceremony held on Tuesday, May 22, in the IT/Performing Arts Conference Center’s Theater on the Utica Campus honored 14 College Works students from The Arc of Oneida-Lewis Counties Chapter.

These 14 College Works students are the first graduates of the program.

The College Works program is a collaborative project between The Arc and

**College Works**



MVCC. It was established to improve student transition from high school to employment, and is a two-year non-credit certificate program for individuals

with disabilities who desire to get a better job and obtain college experience.

The first year’s curriculum offers students an exploratory career assessment in the fields of care giving, food service, industrial/maintenance, and retail/office. In the second year, students elect to study in one occupational area and participate in a work-study at a local job site.

## Chancellor’s Award Continued from Page 1

Representative of the Cultural Committee, Voting Member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Vice President of the International Club.

Gary Broadhurst Jr. earned an Associate in Science diploma in Liberal Arts and Sciences with an emphasis in physical education. He holds a 3.67 GPA and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a recipient of the NJCAA Academic All American Award.

He was the captain of the MVCC men’s basketball team, a member of the Kidz ‘n’ Coaches Club, a Peer Tutor in Student Athletics and the President of the MVCC Weightlifting Club. This Sauquoit native currently serves as a student representative on the Middle States Review Committee and the Athletic Review Board. He has the Assistant Camp Director for MVCC’s Youth Summer Basketball Camp for the past two years.

Jessica Hanmer is a Whitesboro resident who has earned an Associate in Science for Liberal Arts and Sciences with an emphasis on general studies. She holds a 3.91 GPA and

is a member of Phi Theta Kappa along with being on both the President and Vice President’s List. She is a recipient of the Auxiliary Services Corporation Scholarship, Pat and Fern Fausto Scholarship, and the Women’s Christian Association of Utica Scholarship.

Hanmer takes part in the Whitesboro Alumni Association Annual Golf Tournament, America’s Heart Association Run and Walk and the March of Dimes Mothers March. She is a Peer Tutor in Statistics and volunteers in the Hope Alliance Church Nursery. She is also the Vice-President of Services for Phi Theta Kappa at MVCC.

David Pokon is a Utica native who has earned an Associate in Applied Science for Electrical Engineering Technology with a GPA of 3.66.

Pokon is the recipient of the Arthur Salvetti Outstanding Electrical Technology Student Scholarship and the Father David G. Looney Memorial Scholarship. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has made both the President’s List and Vice President’s List at MVCC.

# College Senate's agenda for May 22 meeting

The next MVCC College Senate meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 300 on the third floor of Payne Hall on the Utica Campus.

This meeting is open to the college community with all support materials for agenda (shown below) available in the College Senate public folder.

The College Senate agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Consent Agenda
  - a. Welcome to new senators
  - b. Approval of Minutes: 5-01-07
  - c. Chairperson's Report
  - d. Special Reports
    - (1) Faculty Council of Community Colleges - R. Jubenville
3. Special Business
  - a. Election of Officers for 2007-08 Senate year
  - b. Election of Advisory Committee members
4. President Schafer's (or designee's) Report



5. Student Congress President's (or designee's) Report
  6. Old Business
    - a. Proposed academic calendar for 2008-09 - N. Gioppo
    - b. College Senate Bylaws review/revision - S. Bice
    - c. Ad hoc committee to plan the Senate's welcome of College president-elect Dr. Randall VanWagoner - C. Domser et al
    - d. College wide cell phone use policy - R. Jubenville, J. Smrtic
    - e. Campus smoking policy (deferred) - J. Palmer
  7. New Business
    - a. Election Procedure - Appendix 6
    - b. Future college forum topics
  8. Other Business
  9. Adjournment
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 4, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 300 of Payne Hall. The Senate Advisory Committee will meet August 20 at 2 p.m.

## Faculty/Staff Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Three members of Mohawk Valley Community College's faculty and staff have been selected to receive the 2007 Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in the fields of Professional Service, Teaching and Faculty Service.

The Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching has been awarded to Associate Professor Cynthia Basic-Snyder, who has been with MVCC for 14 years. She has assisted in setting the standard for professional excellence in the Graphic Design program and the Art Department through the development of new courses and curricula. Basic-Snyder has also been instrumental in the development and presentation of programs for the Teaching and Learning Center. The goal has been to formalize staff development.

In addition, Basic-Snyder presented "Looking to Historical Sources for a Modern Graphic Design Curriculum" and "Developing Cross-Discipline Courses and Curriculum" at the 2006 International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Hawaii. She has co-authored the book "Basic Visual Concepts and Principles for Artists, Architects and Designers" (Brown/McGraw Hill) and is currently working on the 3rd edition of "A Typographic Workbook" (John Wiley and Sons).

The Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional



Basic-Snyder



Gibbons

Service has been awarded to Dennis Gibbons, Director of Student Housing. Gibbons has been with the College since 1992. He serves students in MVCC's Residence Halls dealing with aspects of housing such as He policy development, coordinates training, accountable for student safety, and serves as Conduct Officer.

Gibbons' dedication to MVCC, the students and his profession are held in the highest regard.

The Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service has been awarded to Professor Nancy Caputo, who has been with MVCC since 1970.

Along with being the Head of the Health Services Department, Caputo is very active in MVCC's committees and activities. She is also a visible member in several local, state and national associations.

She was instrumental in creating a retention program within the Health Services Department and as a result, her program is used as a model among other departments. Strategies to enhance student success are the hallmarks of the Health Services Department due to the work and leadership of Caputo.



Caputo

# MVCC gets connected with new phone system

**Tom Mihevc**  
**Director IT, Support Services**

On May 1, MVCC awarded a contract to Ronco Communications & Electronics, Inc. for the installation and implementation of our new Voice over IP (VoIP) phone system.

This has been a project well over a year in the making and will culminate sometime in August when we make the switch complete by moving our current dial-tone off the old system and onto the new one. The change became necessary because our current phone system has reached the point of obsolescence and could no longer be supported. It has served us well but with the prospect of not being able to get parts and potential downtime as a result we had to make a change and the current standard is VoIP.

That said, a lot still has to happen before that change-over can occur. You may notice that cable contractors are on campus this month. They are here to upgrade our current Category 3 network cabling to Category 6.

They started in Rome in April and will be here on the Utica Campus until the end of May. Some may question the timing of this work, but VoIP requires a minimum cable specification and with a project start date of June 1st we needed to get this done as a prerequisite.

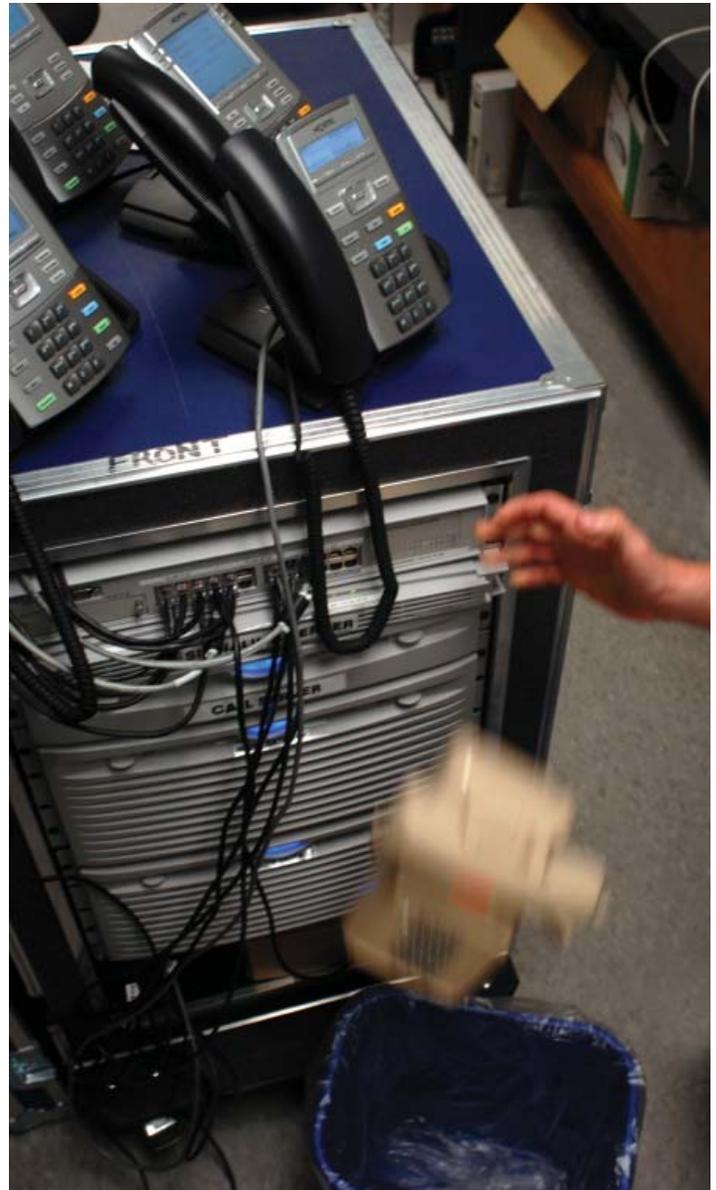
The old Category 3 cable installed almost 20 years ago would not meet the requirements of the new system. The good news is that the Category 3 cable in need of replacement is limited to just a few places, mainly Payne Hall third floor and parts of the Academic Building along with the Plumley Complex in Rome. As the college has been renovated over the last decade, most of the cable has been upgraded in the process, making the job easier.

VoIP requires two technologies that our current networking infrastructure lack, Quality of Service (QOS) and Power over Ethernet (POE). In order to provide these we will be replacing our entire set of switches and routers. This is a big job but will probably go unnoticed for the most part because all this equipment resides in dark closets and behind locked doors.

While this is a big part of the project and will upgrade our capabilities immensely, with the exception of the electrons that make up our electronic communications flowing better and more orderly, few will notice. While we will try to do the majority of the cut over after hours, there will be instances where service will be briefly disrupted.

That brings us to July, which is when the core of the new VoIP system will be installed and new phones start appearing on desks. Until the cut over, everyone will have two phones on their desk, which will be a necessary evil because to put out the 700 phones that make up our system is a major task and will take some time and of course system testing.

Up until the August cut over and running in parallel with the old system, the new phones will actually function as a large intercom system. In other words the system will work for on campus calls but not for outside calls. To dial outside the col-



**OUT WITH THE OLD** – The College will have a new telephone system installed over the next couple weeks. This new phone system will be wired into the computer system, providing better service.

lege, you will still use your current phone.

With the new phone system comes a new voice-mail system as well. The cut over to the new voice-mail system should be fairly smooth as well, we will try to bring everyone's current voice-mail over to the new system to minimize disruption but certainly there will be issues. The migration will not be flawless but we will work with everyone to resolve the issues as they arise.

Training! Did I mention training? Ronco will be here to provide our initial training on the new phones and their features as well as the new email system. We have a demo unit on campus so that the curious can take a look at the new sys-

**New telephone system Continued on Page 5**

## Summer lunch breaks for clerical staff

According to an agreement the College reached with UPSEU in November 1999, lunch breaks for clerical employees with one-hour lunch breaks will change for the summer. From Memorial Day through the Friday preceding the day on which faculty return, clerical staff who take one-hour lunch breaks may take one-half hour lunch breaks. They will return to one-hour lunches on Monday August 20.

- The agreement deals with lunch breaks only. Offices will remain open as usual and supervisors will schedule staff as needed to provide coverage.

- The change in lunch breaks applies only to employees represented by UPSEU. This provision does not cover professional staff or administrators.

- Those with half-hour lunch breaks may find the time of the lunch break has to change to provide coverage in the office.

- The only people who may retain half-hour lunch breaks after August 20 are those who had half-hour lunches on October 21, 1999.

- Staff who wish to remain on a one-hour lunch break may do so if they and their supervisor agree.



**NEW YORK ACADEMIC TEAM** – Dr. Dan Larson, Vice-President of Instruction, presented John Leuenberger, left, and Farshad Madhi with certificates for being selected to Phi Theta Kappa's All-New York Academic Team.

## MVCC students named to All-NY Academic Team

Two of MVCC's students were among the 44 SUNY and nine CUNY students selected to Phi Theta Kappa's All-New York Academic Team by SUNY Chancellor John R. Ryan and New York Community College Trustees Association President Anton N. Kasanof.

John Leuenberger was selected to First Team while Farshad Madhi was honored as a Third Team member.

The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. Members must have a GPA of between a 3.25 and 4.0 and must sustain high academic standing throughout the two-year enrollment.

In addition, members have very strong records of service to the campus or greater community.

"The outstanding young women and men we honor today have achieved academic excellence, have demonstrated leadership and possess strong character and integrity," said Chancellor Ryan. "While this generation represents just 25 percent of our population, they are 100 percent of our future."

SUNY is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States, educating more than 417,500 students in 7,669 degree and certificate programs on 64 campuses.

## New telephone system Continued from Page 4

tem. The demo unit is located in the IT Help Desk area and all are welcome to give the phones a try. As the time gets near we will schedule training sessions for all to attend. Once we are up to speed the IT department will take over the training function and will also be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and support of your new phone.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me and I will do whatever I can to get an answer for you.

Please submit information for inclusion in *Communitas* to [rhaubert@mvcc.edu](mailto:rhaubert@mvcc.edu)

**Right:** Dr. Schafer gives his final Commencement speech as MVCC President.



**Below:** Nikki Giovanni holds up a plaque presented to her by Dr. Schafer.



**Above, right:** First Responders stand in recognition as recipients of the Alumni Merit Award.



**Above:** Nursing graduates Heather Biro and Melissa Britton smile during the Pinning Ceremony. **Left:** Heather Jackson sheds tears of joy while receiving a hug and kiss from her father, Mark.



**Dr. Schafer presents Connie DiGennaro-Ho with her diploma.**