



## Robert Musante completes Ph.D.

It has been 20 years in the making for Robert Musante and every moment has been a valued learning experience. The Assistant Professor from MVCC's Humanities Department is the latest member of the College's faculty to earn his Ph.D.

"Getting the degree was not easy for me. I had to work all the way through it, which is how I relate to most of our students. Most of our students have to work, help raise families, and are not just going to school," says Dr. Musante.

Having grown up in a farming community in Connecticut, Dr. Musante learned from an early age the value of hard work. He applied these lessons throughout his life both as a student and a teacher.

"I got through my doctoral work due to my work ethic and I tell my students there is nothing wrong with working hard to achieve what you desire," says Dr. Musante.

Dr. Musante earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Clemson University along with a teaching certificate from Southern Connecticut State University.

His Ph.D. work in English was done through Middle Tennessee State University and took him 10 years to complete. His dissertation was on William Blake and British Romantics in English Literature with emphasis on composition.

"I was very fortunate to have two really good mentors who taught me how to teach composition very effectively," says Dr. Musante.

In Dr. Musante's dissertation, he discussed how three major works by Blake



**TEACHING BY EXAMPLE** - MVCC's Robert Musante recently became the latest member of the College's faculty to earn his Ph.D. Dr. Musante is an Assistant Professor in the Humanities Department.

were all interwoven. These works included two books of poetry, *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*, along with Blake's classic poem, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*.

According to Dr. Musante, *Songs of Innocence* dealt with the spirituality of children in harsh environments during the Industrial Revolution. One such poem describes a young chimney sweep who maintains his happiness through dreams of emerging in a heavenly environment. This is how he escapes his brutal work environment.

*Songs of Experience* addresses good and evil in the universe and God's role. There is a poem of a chimney sweep with a bitter view on life, knowing the environment he has been thrust into is

**'Dr. Musante' Continued on Page 2**

### D'Argenio elected president of NYS Criminal Justice group

Carolyn D'Argenio, an Associate Professor in the Social Sciences, was recently elected President of the Criminal Justice Educators Association of New York State. She



D'Argenio

becomes only the second female to hold this position in the organization.

## MVCC Faces: Melissa Wines

When it comes to helping students exceed expectations at the college, CSTEP Coordinator Melissa Wines is there every step of the way.

CSTEP (Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program) is designed to give students with African American, Hispanic/Latino or Native American backgrounds, who come from an economically disadvantaged environment, extra assistance while pursuing careers in science, mathematics, engineering, construction trades, nursing, health services, law or secondary education.

Wines took over the position as CSTEP Coordinator in August after working as an instructor for four semesters at MVCC. During that time, she has also worked as an advisor and tutor.

This New Hartford resident's responsibilities include overseeing the CSTEP grant program that includes developing and delivering workshops, oversee budget, writing reports, assist students with all academic, financial, social, and career needs.

"If you are unfamiliar with CSTEP, please let me introduce this fantastic program that MVCC has been awarded by New York State," says Wines. "The primary goals are to increase NYS professional licensure for our students. We accomplish this mission by providing the student with a holistic approach to the college experience."

In 1997, Wines earned her Bachelor's of Science in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. While working as a social worker for local agencies, she completed her Master's Degree in Education from Utica College in 2005.



**Melissa Wines**  
CSTEP Coordinator

"I have a strong dedication to MVCC and am delighted to take on this new challenge," says Wines, who has a six-year-old daughter, Karima. "My goals include increasing the recruitment and retention of qualified students for the CSTEP grant and inspire them to be the leaders of tomorrow in math, science, and technology."

Wines was named as a "Who's Who" in teaching in 2007 while teaching chemical dependencies courses in the Psychology, Human Services and Education Department.

Along with working at MVCC, she is a volunteer at Hope House and enjoys playing recreational baseball and basketball.

## Dr. Musante

Continued From Page 1

an evil place. As an older child, he has outgrown his ability to be a chimney sweep and his usefulness because he has been physically abused by his work environment.

"The speakers in the poems from *Songs of Experience* are very bitter about their situation," says Dr. Musante.

*The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* deals with social norms including conventional rules of society, law, religion and politics.

"In my presentation, I talked not about the individual poems, but on each book and how the idea advanced," says Dr. Musante, which included discussing Blake as an artist. Blake engraved his poetry onto copper plates, a process

known as relief etching.

Dr. Musante's research paper was six chapters with an introduction, four body chapters and a conclusion, taking a total of 4 ½ months to complete.

Now with his Ph.D. work behind him, Dr. Musante is looking forward to continuing his work within the community college setting.

"I am much better suited to be a community college teacher. ... I want to help students develop a strong work ethic and to be here for the students who come from a disadvantaged background. I believe in giving my students an edge," says Dr. Musante, who was recently nominated as a Who's Who Among American Teachers.

## Professor has poem published in *Time of Singing*

Dr. George J. Searles, a Professor in the Humanities Department, has authored a poem in the Fall issue of *Time of Singing*, a literary quarterly published in Pennsylvania.



Searles

## MVCC Campus Events

### Friday, November 9

Workshop: Chicago City Limits Presents "Laughing Matters,"  
ACC 116, 3:00 p.m.

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

Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony, IT 225, 4:00 p.m.

MVCC Men's Basketball Tournament, 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

Movie: Flatland - The Film, PC Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

Performance: Chicago City Limits Presents "Laughing  
Matters," Theatre, 8:00 p.m.

### Saturday, November 10

Cross Country at NJCAA Championships, 10:00 a.m.

Ice Hockey hosts Erie CC at Utica Aud., 1:00 p.m.

MVCC Men's Basketball Tournament, 12:00 & 2:00 p.m.

MVCC Women's Basketball Tournament, 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

### Sunday, November 11

Ice Hockey at Oswego State Club, 1:00 p.m.

MVCC Women's Basketball Tournament, 12:00 & 2:00 p.m.

### Monday, November 12

Chess Club, ACC 114, 3:00 p.m.

Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

Movie: Blood Diamond, Rated R, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.

Drama Club Rehearsal, IT 225, 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, November 13

Yoga, ACC 116, 5:30 p.m.

Ballroom Dancing, ACC 116, 7:00 p.m.

Comedy: Greg Warren from the Bob-and-Tom Radio Show,  
Theatre, 7:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball hosts Broome CC, 6:00 p.m.

Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 6:00 p.m.

Drama Club Rehearsal, IT 225, 7:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball host Broome CC, 8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 14

Kids and Coaches, ACC 116, 4:00 p.m.

Electronic Gaming Club, MV Commons, 4:30 p.m.

Photography Lecture: "Italy, Three Cities, Three Cemeteries,"  
by Frank Calidonna, PC Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

Drama Club Rehearsal, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.

Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116, 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday, November 15

Recital: Pianist John Spradling, Theatre, 12:30 p.m.

Women's Self Defense Workshop, ACC 116, 1:00 p.m.

Middle States, PH 304, 1:00 p.m.

Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

Drama Club Rehearsal, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.

### Friday, November 16

Police Academy, ITT 225, 8:00 a.m.

Middle States, PH 304, 1:00 p.m.

International Festival, MV Commons, 3:00 p.m.

Ballroom Dancing, ACC 116, 7:00 p.m.

Drama Club Rehearsal, IT 225, 7:00 p.m.

Concert: Ghost of a Stranger, Theatre, 8:00 p.m.



**GUEST SPEAKER** - The MVCC Black Student Union hosted a community speaker to discuss Jesse Jackson's Rainbow PUSH Coalition. Below, members of the BSU listen as Morris Pearson, Executive Assistant for Student Services, talks about a point. To Pearson's left are: Michael Corter, BSU Vice-President; Patrick Guiteau, BSU Treasurer; Darren Cummings, BSU President.



## Understanding Holocaust Writings

### Factoids from a tutorial by Lew Kahler

The term Holocaust refers to the Nazi extermination of 6 million Jews, and hundreds of thousands of others, between the years of 1933 and 1945.

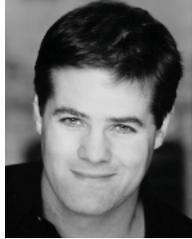
The very nature of creating, especially in the face of death, is an act of hope.



The poems of Primo Levi, a Holocaust survivor, are "a haunting recollection of the atrocities, as well as a warning that those who, while sitting in the comfort of their homes, need always be aware that the Holocaust could happen again. Just as Levi's life once was unexpectedly disrupted by the rise of Nazi influence on Fascist Italy, anyone could be the next to be persecuted at the hands of another."

## Comedian from WOUR's 'Bob & Tom Show' takes stage at MVCC

"Morning Drive Radio" comes alive at MVCC when comedian Greg Warren takes the stage on Tuesday, November 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the College Theatre on the Utica Campus. Tickets for this Fall Cultural Series event are \$10.00 general admission, \$5.00 with any college ID and free with an MVCC ID.



Warren

Warren, known as "Flute-Man Greg" from the Bob-and-Tom Radio Show, most recently appeared "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson" and this season of "Last Comic Standing." He has quickly become a favorite on college campuses across the nation with his act inspired by stories from his Midwestern upbringing.

Warren's humor reaches a broad spectrum of fans, as everyone can relate to dysfunctional family gatherings. His diverse following has arisen from performances on the BET Network's "Coming to the Stage" and Country Music Television's "Comedy Stage."

He is also a favorite on the nationally syndicated "Bob and Tom" radio show, which led him to tour theatres across the country with the "Friends of Bob and Tom Comedy Tour." To learn more about Greg Warren, visit his website at [www.gregwarrencomedy.com](http://www.gregwarrencomedy.com).

Advance tickets can be purchased at the MVCC bookstores on the Utica and Rome campuses or by calling 735-2945. For more information on MVCC Cultural Series Events, visit [www.mvcc.edu/culture](http://www.mvcc.edu/culture).

**Did you know:**  
CCED administers the Verizon Telecommunications Technology AAS Degree Program. 32 students take part in the program. MVCC is one of 13 Colleges statewide that take part in this specialized program.

## 'Blood Diamonds' to the big screen

MVCC will show the motion picture "Blood Diamonds" on Monday, November 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the College Theatre on the Utica Campus. This event is open free to the public.

This film is set in Sierra Leone's bloody civil war and tells the story of a poor Mende farmer, Soloman Vandy (Djimon Hounsou), who gets caught up in a conflict between an American diamond smuggler (played by Leonardo DiCaprio) and the violent syndicate that controls the local diamond mining. Soloman leads the American to a priceless diamond that he hid during his time in the mines in exchange for help in getting his son back who has been kidnapped by the rebellion army.



DiCaprio

This Rated R film also stars Jennifer Connelly.

## Lambda Beta Chapter to induct 50 members

The Lambda Beta Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society will be welcoming almost 50 new members during the Fall Induction Ceremony on Friday, November 9, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 225 of the Information Technology Building.



Below are those students who have met the requirements for membership, maintaining a 3.5 GPA with at least 12 credit hours in a degree program.

The Induction Ceremony is open to all members of the college community. Cake, cookies, and punch will be available at the conclusion of the ceremony. Please come to show your support for these inductees, should your schedule permit. It is always nice to recognize students for their academic achievement!

Those to be honored include:

Holly Baslow, Londia Bell, Stephanie Berberick, Jill Bodnar, Dennis Brennan, Catherine Karas Ciotti, Jessica Coleman, Amanda Collier, Heather Connell, Michael Demma, Nancy Doyle, Ashley Durant,

Agnes Fellner, Hillary Forbes, Juan Gomez, James Green, Patrick Guiteau, Jessie Harrington, Etta Marshall Head, Eric Herrera, Elizabeth Hillier, Matthew Horan

Kumiko Ishiwatari, Kara James, Russell Johnson, Natasa Joldic, Kesha Kasprzyk, Shinana Kichishima, Iryna Kocherzhuk, Nicole Lawrence, Melissa Loiacano, Alyssa Manion, Cameron Miller, Elizabeth Munn,

Britney O'Connor, Jose Prats, Meredith Ricci, Derek Sabis, Rano Sou, Kenny Stover, Sarah Sydoriw, Pavel Vabishchevich, Richard Warner, Kurt Williams, Dawn Woodward, Connie Zogby.

**To submit information  
for Communitas,  
e-mail Rich Haubert  
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