

New emergency communications plan underway

MVCC has a newly refined Emergency Response Plan designed to utilize new technology and proactive measures to react to campus crisis.

All College employees will receive a flyer with their next payroll stub explaining the first new procedure the College has put in place, known as NY Alert. Over the next several weeks, the different aspects of the Emergency Response Plan will be explained in detail to the college community.

The first initiative is called the "New York Alert" system. The following Q&A is meant to provide insight into this program.

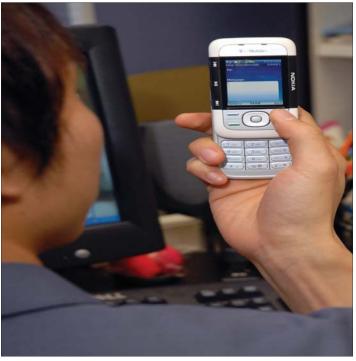
What is New York (NY) Alert? It's a voluntary system of enrollment for notification of emergencies through the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) alert system.

How does NY Alert work? NY Alert provides subscribers with either an email, fax, or cell phone text message to let the subscriber know that an emergency condition exists on campus. MVCC will give students and staff the opportunity to voluntarily submit their preferred method of contact to SEMO, which will in turn set up a transmission database for those who have subscribed.

When will NY Alert be used? Only in an emergency. Some examples might include an impending natural disaster, such as an approaching tornado, or an imminent crisis on campus, such as a fire, bomb threat, or armed suspect.

What will happen? If an emergency exists, NY Alert will send a message to the subscriber letting them know of the emergency condition, and in most cases, specific instructions on what to do. A subscriber will receive the message as either an email, fax or cell phone text message, depending on what that subscriber has specified when they signed up for NY Alert.

How will I sign up for NY Alert? MVCC will provide a link through SIRS, our internet based student system, for all students and staff to enter their information into NY Alert. The information you enter is held as confidential and will only be used by SEMO to give you information during an emergency situation.



EMERGENCY MESSAGE - One of the programs implemented for the College's Emergency Response Plan is New York Alert. This system sends out an e-mail, fax or text message to cell phones when a crisis situation arises.

What does NY Alert cost? Absolutely nothing. The service is free, and completely voluntary. You do not have to sign up for NY Alert unless you are interested in receiving information during an emergency situation. While we do recommend subscribing to NY Alert, participation is not mandatory.

How do I get started? Go to the SIRS link on the MVCC website (www.mvcc.edu) and login to your secure area. Once you are logged in, there will be instructions for submitting information for NY Alert.

When will NY Alert become activated? NY Alert data collection is underway now and we expect the system to be activated by January 2008. The earlier you sign up for service, the sooner you will begin receiving emergency alerts. Enrollment is ongoing though, so you can sign up at a later date and still become part of the system.



WINNING ADDS UP - Donald Willner, Department Head for Mathematics, congratulates New Hartford's Jimmy Wu for winning the seventh annual High School Mathematics Competition.

MVCC Campus Events

Tuesday, November 20

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

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving Day, College Closed

Monday, November 26

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

Tuesday, November 27

Griffiss Social Activities Club, PC 131, 8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Acoustic Café Performance: Bill Dustin and Lindsey Smith, ACC 116, 7:00 & 8:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball hosts Herkimer CCC, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 28

Sculpture Space Resident Artist Lecture: IT 225, 3:00 p.m.

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

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

Ice Hockey hosts Hudson Valley CC at Utica Aud., 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 29

Men's Basketball hosts Fulton-Montgomery CC, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 30

Information Session with Colgan Air, PC Auditorium, 10:00 a.m. A&P Program Open House, PC Auditorium, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 1

Family Film Series: Polar Express, Rated G,

Plumley Auditorium, 12:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball at Adirondack CC, 1:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball at Adirondack CC, 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 2

Ice Hockey hosts SUNY Canton at Utica Aud., 2:00 p.m.

New Hartford wins High School Mathematics Competition

The Mathematics Department hosted the seventh annual High School Mathematics Competition on Thursday, November 15, with New Hartford taking top honors.

Four- member teams, made up of juniors and seniors, from 14 area high schools took the hour-long examination in the College Theater on the Utica Campus. The examination consisted of 20 questions from the pre-calculus level.

Problems were taken from arithmetic, algebra of real and complex numbers, geometry, trigonometry and the elementary notions of counting, probability, statistics and logic.

The first place winner was Jimmy Wu from New Hartford High School. The second place winner was Andrew Milewski from Rome Free Academy.

The third place winner was Lucas Wonderly from Vernon, Verona, Sherrill High School. The top scoring team was from New Hartford and was made up of Shereen Asmat, Anish Butala, Hadi Kaakour and Jimmy Wu.

The top individual competitor received a Presidential Scholarship from the MVCC Foundation. When combined with aid available through the New York State Tuition Assistance Program and the Federal Pell Grant Program, the Presidential Scholarship covers all tuition costs at MVCC for a full-time student.

The second and third place individual competitors received a free course at MVCC, as well as other prizes, including software packages and a book on mathematics. The first place team was also recognized and received prizes.

Schools taking part in this year's event were Adirondack, Camden, Canastota, Holy Cross Academy, Ilion, Lincoln Academy, Little Falls, Morrisville-Eaton, New Hartford, Proctor, Rome Free Academy, Stockbridge Valley, VVS, and Westmoreland.

Adopt a child for the holidays

In the spirit of giving this holiday season we at Kiddie Campus are seeking participants in the adopt a child program. This program not only brightens the holidays for the children but expresses the unity of the Mohawk Valley Community College as a whole.

There are 20 families enrolled at Kiddie Campus that could benefit from this program. The families will fill out a wish list for their child. A child will be designated to faculty and staff members who are interested in participating in the gift giving. You may choose as many items as you would like from a child's wish list. Wrapped presents need to be dropped off at Kiddie Campus by December 7.

If you would like to participate please call or e-mail Jeri George, Terry Kipers, and/or Robin Saxe x5594. We look forward to hearing from you and have a wonderful holiday season.

Thank You, Kiddie Campus

Minutes from November 19 meeting of the Board of Trustees

The MVCC Board of Trustees met Monday, November 19, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 300 on the third floor of Payne Hall on the Utica Campus.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with minutes from the October 15, 2007, meeting being unanimously approved. The Board then entered Executive Sessions at 4:10 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. The Board reconvened at 4:40 p.m.



Accreditation Update - Dr. Sandra Engel highlighted the findings from the Institutional Leadership

and Administration portion of the Middle States Self-Study. Points of Pride were: 1. Students' rights to participate in establishing policies and procedures associated

Reports

Treasurer's Report - Ralph Feola,

Vice President for Administration, reported the independent audit report is in its final stages and will be presented to the Board at the December meeting.

The Board approved three Items at this time:

- 2a Operation of the College under Plan C;
- 2b Amendment #1 to the 2007-2008 Operating Budget (from \$41,433,478 to \$42,085,938);
- 2c Transfer of funds for the 2007-2008 Operating Budget to individual departments at the College.

Committee Reports - Mr. Yagey confirmed the Audit and Finance Committee is finalizing the audit report and will be made available for the December meeting.

Mrs. Falvo announced the Millennium Committee will meet on December 3.

Chairperson's Report - Mrs. Vandeveer released the BOT meeting schedule for 2008. She acknowledged Mr. Austin's "Thank You" letter for the kind words over the death of his brother.

Student Trustee's Report - Selma Mujevic thanked Dr. VanWagoner for attending a Student Congress function where he was presented an apron signed by members of the student body. Ms. Mujevic also announced a new student trustee will take her place for the Spring Semester as she will be graduating in December.

President's Report - President Randall VanWagoner introduced Eileen Dailey for a presentation on the College's Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The ERP came about following 9-11 and designed to have a comprehensive strategy in place that serves as a guide for procedures to be followed in case of fire/bomb/gunman/other threats on campus. The goal of the Crisis Team, which advises the College president, is to coordinate with outside agencies while keeping the College community informed. The College employees 13 fulltime security officers and three part-time for both campuses. Campus security includes nearly 50 cameras that include in the Residents Halls. Other security measures are: BERT, NY Alert, siren, and VoiceOver Emergency Messaging (to be launched February 2008).

Dr. VanWagoner announced program in coordination with the MVCC Foundation aimed at creating Smart Classrooms

student life; 2. New College president.

Challenges: 1. Excessive number of committees; 2. Staffing levels need to be examined to identify training needs; 3. Collective Bargaining process; 4. Lack of procedures for checks and balances for data accuracy; 5. Lack of objective assessment procedures for administrative or College Governance structures.

New Business

10a - The MVCC Foundation allocated \$150,000 for special needs of the Collage which the Board requested be used for safety initiatives outlined by the Emergency Response Plan.

10b - The Board adopted the 2007-2008 Staffing Plan.

10c – The Board authorized the filling of the following positions by qualified candidates: Physics Instructor; Upward Bound Project Director; Upward Bound Program Coordinator: Upward Bound Tutor/Mentor.

10d - Amendment of College Staff Plan as follows:

- Delete title of Millennium Project Director
- Create title of Executive Director of The Center for College Outreach
 - Delete title of Director of High School Programs
 - Create title of Director of College Connections

Furthermore, Jennifer Boulanger be appointed to the position of Executive Director of The Center for College Outreach; Shane McGovern be appointed to the position of Director of College Connections.

10e – The Board ratified the increase of the 2007-2008 salaries for Exempt Administrators by an aggregate amound of \$42,428.73 effective September 1, 2007.

Appointments

5a - The appointment of Todd Kubica to the position of Upward Bound Project Director (vacant due to resignation of Samson Olaode) be ratified;

5b – The appointment of Rhona S. Patterson to the position of Upward Bound Program Coordinator be ratified;

- **5c** The appointment of Kevin Holochwost to the position of Upward Bound Tutor/Mentor be ratified;
- **5d** The appointment of Zaida Morell to the position of Step Project Coordinator be ratified.

Why Vietnam? A glimpse of the culture

By Dr. Sandra Engel

I went to Vietnam for the first of what has now been 14 times because John Bolton suggested I do so in 1998 as part of a sabbatical proposal to develop a course in intercultural communication. The course never ran, but that first trip to Vietnam changed my life.

Surely we should offer as many opportunities for student study abroad as possible, but I offer testimony to the power of faculty travel overseas. I see my culture and myself very differently now.



That said, Vietnam is not for the faint of heart. Yes, there is a tourist infrastructure, but for my money the most interesting places

are not the Hanoi Hilton (although I have been there twice) but the out-of-the-way, high-impact places where I can have an authentic experience, places where there is little or no Western food, for instance, and where the English is broken but the smiles are broad.

Yes, compassion fatigue does set in as monks politely ask for alms, children sell packets of Chicklets for five cents, and people who cannot walk offer an open palm. Vietnam is Confucian, a place where all depends on connection and right relationship, a place where people never say no because doing so would cause both parties to lose face. Instead, the word they use is chua—not yet. So I buy the gum, give money as I should and consider the possibility of our situations being reversed.

Still, there are ample opportunities for cultural misunderstanding. When I was living in the Mekong Delta in 2003 when war with Iraq broke out, the community college I was at restricted me to campus. They said they were afraid that I would be kidnapped by Thai pirates in the nearby harbor and smuggled to Bangkok. They were concerned for my safety, but it was as close to house arrest as I ever want to get. (The U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City intervened; there had been no threat.)

Even on a normal day, I am safer there than anywhere here, since wherever I go I am under the protection of the Provincial People's Committee.

Vietnam is a place where courtesy requires that you give and take with both hands. Handshakes are wimpy by Western standards, and people who are not out and about by 7:00 a.m. are presumed to be ill. Traffic - motorbikes, bicycles and even pedestrians walking in the middle of the street - moves like fish swim. Stop lights are suggestions at best.

The first thing any Western traveler has to learn all over again is how to cross the street, something no one ever expected to do. Those kinds of things are part of the surprises that make Vietnam fun. If I wanted things to be the same as home, I would stay home.

In the places where I go, instead of my being as invisible as I am on the street anywhere in the U.S., in Vietnam I am Ma-



donna. In Vietnam it is okay to stare, and on the street I turn heads, for there I am the Other - unknown, exotic, a curiosity, and clearly not a local. There I am dependent on the kindness of strangers. And I am beholden to the many people to whom I became not a stranger, people who were

making maybe \$40 a month but who invited me to dinner, or insisted I go with them for coffee and karaoke, or took me on a long trip into to the countryside on the back of their motorbike. None of that was necessary and all was given generously.

Perhaps - just perhaps
- we should be judged
on how we treat relative strangers (relative strangers? An oxymoron?) - peo-

ple whom we can choose to ignore if we want to.

In Vietnam I am surprised and humbled every day. Why Vietnam? Why not?

You know:

CCED administers the Verizon
Telecommunications Technology
AAS Degree Program. 32 students
is one of 13 Colleges statewide
specialized program.