



BERT heads off trouble before it can escalate

What is BERT?

BERT (Behavior Evaluation Response Team) is a program created by the College that is designed to recognize, identify and respond to troubling behavior by an individual as a preemptive measure to maintaining safety on the Utica and Rome Campuses.

The Behavior Evaluation Response Team consists of Denise DiGiorgio, Vice-President of Student Services; Rose Button, Assistant Dean for Campus Life; Joe Palmer, Chief of Campus Safety; Bob Jubenville, Executive Assistant to the Vice-President for Instruction; Morris Pearson, Campus Conduct Officer; Dennis Gibbons, Director of Student Housing; Deb Bogan, Coordinator Academic and Student Services (Rome); Matt Russo, Psychologist; and Gary Broadhurst, Director of Athletics.

This program is **NOT** meant as a quick response system, rather a procedure to track, document, respond and follow-up on inappropriate or irrational student behavior on the campuses.

"BERT will act as a clearinghouse for repetitive behavior that could be cause for concern – either for the well-being of the student and/or the safety of our campus at large," said DiGiorgio. "BERT will follow-up with appropriate strategies as it deems appropriate."

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STUDENTS WELCOME NEW PRESIDENT - Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner donned an apron to help serve lunch to students during the Student Congress' "Welcome Barbecue." This luncheon was meant to introduce the College's new president to the student body. Dr. VanWagoner jumped right in to help, saying there is no better way to meet the students than to serve them lunch face-to-face. He is shaking hands with Zachary Marshall.

MVCC scholarships here to help students

Fall deadline to apply is November 15

According to recently released data, college costs across the nation have increased nearly 40 percent in five years, forcing students to graduate with more debt than ever before. One of the ways MVCC is helping students offset the expense is through scholarships, but students must hurry to apply as the Fall Semester deadline is **November 15**.

MVCC's Office of Institutional Advancement provides nearly \$250,000 annually to students through nearly 100 scholarships.

To apply or receive an application, visit the office in Room 366 of Payne

Hall or call 792-5555. Or to view all available scholarships, visit the website at www.mvcc.edu and look for "**MVCC Scholarships**" under College Information.

"We don't want our students to miss out on taking advantage of these scholarships," said Sarah Beth Lardie, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement. "With the ever increasing cost of a college education, these scholarships are instrumental to opening doors that were formerly shut to those seeking to better themselves."

Lardie realized her dreams through the benefits of a scholarship program at Rutgers University.

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Scholarships

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The money from scholarships can be used to pay for books, tuition and fees as well as living expenses. MVCC even has a scholarship through Sedexo that covers yearly meal plans.

Scholarships available through MVCC are for students in all fields of study including first- and second-year students as well as returning adults. There are awards for community service, college activities, work experience as well as specialty awards for women and minorities.

Scholarships range in value from \$100 to full tuition at MVCC and students can apply for more than one.

"These generous scholarship opportunities are made possible by alumni and friends of the college. Without their support, we would not be able to help students succeed or realize their educational goals," says Lardie.

The scholarships awarded on November 15 will be available the beginning of the Spring Semester and students will be honored at the annual scholarship award ceremony in May.



TURNING STONE TOUR - Students and faculty of the Business and Information Technology Department went on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Turning Stone Resort-Casino.

BIT students get inside view of Turning Stone technology

A group of MVCC students and faculty received unique insight into the operations of a resort-casino during a recent behind-the-scenes tour of the Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona. Professor Cathy Glod and Instructor Justin Wilcox, with the help of Instructor Robert Huyck and Associate Professor Doreen Nicholls, organized this field trip for 45 Business and Information Technology students, which took place on Thursday, October 4.

The purpose of this tour was to inform the students of possible career opportunities and to demonstrate the skills and abilities that resort-casino looks for in employees.

The resort-casino's 70 employees in the IT department are responsible for maintaining technology operations for four hotels which consists of 700 rooms, 20 restaurants, two entertainment venues, five golf courses, 2,500 multi-gaming machines, 120 units of wireless bingo, electronic poker tables and much more.

MVCC's students toured various areas of the complex including the gaming floor which is serviced by computer servers processing 1,000 transactions per second, the IT Test Room where new games are programmed and tested, the Network Operation Center, the Security Command Center which monitors over 600 cameras, and the 21 Club.

MVCC Ski Club trip to Killington

The MVCC Ski Club is sponsoring a weekend trip to Killington Mountain on January 8-10 during winter break. The Chalet Killington offers 30 guest rooms which include private bath, cable TV, and daily maid service. There's also a lounge, restaurant, hot tub, sauna, game room and newly installed pool. There is free slope-side shuttle service.

The cost for MVCC students is \$180 per person with four in a room, \$190 each for three in a room and \$200 for doubles. Price includes two days skiing at Killington, two nights lodging and two hot breakfasts. This trip has NO transportation to Killington as skiers will provide their own travel plans.

BERT

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How can you help?

If a student showing signs of stress or distress **OR**;

If an encounter with a student that hasn't risen to filing an incident report **OR**;

If a student exhibits potential behavior risks to him/herself or others **OR**;

If concerns arise about a particular student:

Send an e-mail to BERT@mvcc.edu.

While BERT may not be able to provide specific follow-up information, BERT may apprise faculty and staff of steps taken within legal and ethical guidelines.

DiGiorgio emphasizes that BERT is not intended to replace incident or security reports. As always, if feeling threatened or harassed by anyone at any time, file a Security Report with Security. If at any time Security is needed immediately, individuals should call Campus Security at extension 5777.

It is the College's sincere hope BERT will be able intervene and help retain students experiencing difficulties and keep our campuses safe.

Strategic Planning to meet Thursday

The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting will be Thursday, October 18, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 300 Payne Hall on the Utica Campus and Room 209 of the Plumley Complex on the Rome Campus.

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

MVCC Campus Events

Tuesday, Oct. 16

Breast Cancer Awareness Information Table,
Rome's PC Atrium, 9:00 a.m.
College Senate, PH 300, 2:30 p.m.
Adjunct Recruitment Fair, IT 225, 4:00 p.m.
Men's Soccer at SUNY Delhi, 4:00 p.m.
Women's Soccer hosts Cayuga CC, 4:00 p.m.
Acoustic Café Performance: Jason Bean & Ashley Cox,
ACC 116, 7:00 p.m.
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 17

Health Promotion Presentations, Rome's PC Atrium,
10:30 p.m.
Brown Bag Lunch Series, ACC 114, 2:00 p.m.
Women Volleyball hosts SUNY Delhi, 7:00 p.m.
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
Slam Poet: Colin Gilbert, ACC 116, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 18

Health Promotion Presentations, Rome's PC Atrium,
10:30 p.m.
Cultural Series Lecture: "The Art and Science of Making and Restoring Lorenzo Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise," by Syracuse University Professor Gary Radke, IT 225, 12:30 p.m.
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
Cultural Series Stage Performance: "They're Playing Our Song," An MVCC Theater Program/Drama Club production directed by Paul Cruskie, Theater, 8:00 p.m.
Cultural Series Performance: Robert Channing, World's Foremost Mind Reader, Hypnotist, & Psychic Entertainer, Plumley Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 19

Health Promotion Presentations, Rome's PC Atrium,
10:30 p.m.
Student Congress, ACC 212, 1:00 p.m.
C-STEP Forum: "Being Black in America's Infrastructure,"
IT 225, 2:00 p.m.
Cross Country at Mountain Valley Conference at MVCC,
4:00 p.m.
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
Cultural Series Stage Performance: "They're Playing Our Song," Theater, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 20

Defensive Driving Course, PC207, 9:00 am
Women Volleyball hosts Adirondack CC, 1:00 p.m.
Men's Soccer at NJCAA Region III Playoffs, TBA
Women's Soccer at NJCAA Region III Playoffs, TBA
Cultural Series Stage Performance: "They're Playing Our Song," Theater, 8:00 p.m.

**To submit information
for *Communitas*,
e-mail Rich Haubert @
rhaubert@mvcc.edu**

From the desk of the Director of Information Technology....

By Paul Katchmar

This is the first of periodic installments of a column that I hope will foster better communication concerning Information Technology. There are a multitude of issues I would like to report on, but for today, I would like to concentrate on: *The organizational structure of Information Technology and how you interface with the department for problem resolutions or new initiatives.*

For the past several years, the InfoTech department has been guided under a dual leadership concept. My previous title was Director of Administrative Technology, primarily in charge of the BANNER/SIRS System along with overall responsibility for network communications. Tom Mihevc was the Director of Instructional Technology primarily in charge of our Academic Labs and the Help Desk operation.

Since the beginning of this fall's term, Tom now serves as a full-time instructor in the ECPS Department. With his departure from the InfoTech department, the time was right to examine the organizational structure of the department. Before I explain the new structure, I'd like to thank Tom for his many contributions to the Information Technology Department and the wide array of technical expertise and direction he provided. I wish him well in his new career field and I'm sure he will have a positive impact not only on his new department, but on the students he will be serving.

Working with President VanWagoner and with input from various staff members, the InfoTech department has been reorganized where I serve as the sole Director of Information Technology with five reporting divisions. Those divisions are Administrative Computing, Network Computing, Distance Learning Technology and Media Services, Academic Computing (Student Labs) and the Help Desk. With so many variations of "technology", there may be some confusion as to who you should contact for help or to discuss the feasibility of new initiatives or equipment.

We are trying to establish a "single point of contact" culture (at least for problems) by utilizing our Help Desk. If you have a problem, you should contact our Help Desk either by phone at extension #5711, email at helpdesk@mvcc.edu or in person in IT139. The ideal situation is for you to have your problem resolved immediately upon notifying the Help Desk, but in reality, that is not always possible. If not, a "ticket" will be established and the call will be routed to the proper InfoTech division that can resolve your problem. The common practice in the past has been for end-users to bypass the Help Desk and contact various staff members directly. Although I don't want to discourage direct communications with InfoTech staff members, I do encourage you to use the Help Desk for problems and to use direct contact as the exception.

If you need to discuss an equipment request, new software, training or anything else other than "problems", you can initiate the communication via the Help Desk and I will usually be the person to follow-up. Or, for these types of "non-problem" requests, rather than initiating the call at the Help Desk, you can contact me directly at extension #5510, by email at pkatchmar@mvcc.edu or in person in IT158.

As I've already indicated, there are many issues that I will be reporting on in future installments of this column. Next week, I

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Tipping our hat to MVCC employees who go above and beyond

We salute Dan Yoxall and his crew on the Rome Campus

Dear Dr. Cantor,

I would like to bring to your attention something that all too often goes without being reported. Appreciation for outstanding service. Yesterday I purchased a used loom from surplus that the Rome campus MVCC was selling. I contacted Dan Yoxall to make the arrangements.

After I got home with my purchase my husband and I discussed what a pleasant experience it had been. Dan Yoxall made the arrangements to view, purchase and pick up the loom. His manner was professional, courteous and friendly.

In addition there were two other men there to assist us moving the heavy item, I believe their names were Dave Guido and Tony DelPico. My husband was also impressed with these gentlemen. They assisted us with a willingness and professional manner that surprised us.

These three men in our opinion went well above what we think would normally be expected and should receive recognition for being such an excellent advertisement of the nature of MVCC to the community at large.

Though I appreciate that it may well fall under their job descriptions to perform such duties they did so impressively. I think you would agree that customer service is all too often given grudgingly on many occasions and to receive outstanding assistance from these three men in particular Dan Yoxall should not go unreported.

Sincerely and with a big thank you!

Laurie and Victor Ungeitis

If you see or hear a colleague going out of their way to be helpful, please drop a line to Rich Haubert or Joan Andrek for inclusion in *Communitas*.



STORY TIME - Librarian Krista Hartman reads *The Rainbow Fish* to children from the Kiddie Campus.

Kiddie Campus rooms named

The MVCC library was filled with tales of dinosaurs and rainbow colored fish when the Kiddie Campus held its room naming ceremony and story hour there on Wednesday. The ceremony marked the naming of the two classrooms in the Kiddie Campus after two popular children's books.

The classrooms are now known as "The Rainbow Fish" and "Dazzle The Dinosaur."

"We were thinking of a way to connect the day care center with a college theme and naming the rooms after children's literary characters seemed to be the perfect way," said Jeri George, Director of Child Care Services.

There were 24 Kiddie Campus children in attendance as Librarian and Associate Professor Krista Hartman read the *Dazzle The Dinosaur* book aloud. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed dinosaur and rainbow fish shaped cookies which were cut out by the children the day before and baked by Sodexo. Both books were written by author Marcus Pfister.

Understanding Buddhism

A tutorial by Bill Hysell

"Buddhism is a religion based on the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha. The name Buddha comes from the Sanskrit meaning "to awaken" (Bresnan 192). This awakening is the goal of Buddhism and simply means the realization of the ultimate truth of reality."



the practice of meditation is used by Buddhists to achieve the enlightened state.

Four Noble Truths form the basis of Buddhist teaching.

The First Noble Truth: All is suffering. Suffering is a universal reality for humans. While this may seem pessimistic, it is only a starting point and capable of being dispelled.

The Second Noble Truth: Craving or selfish desire causes suffering. Selfish cravings lead one in pursuits that block enlightenment.

The Third Noble Truth: Liberation from suffering or nirvana is attainable on a personal level, not dependent on an outside source or power. Here, then, is the key to enlightenment.

The Fourth Noble Truth: One achieves enlightenment by following the Middle Way usually described as The Eightfold Path.

Information Technology

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will report on the conversion to MS-Word 2007, Windows Vista, our full network upgrade and the new phone system. My line is always open so please feel free to contact me with feedback from this column or to suggest future topics that may be of interest to the college community.