



## Award-winning journalist as guest speaker at inauguration of President VanWagoner

The College community will celebrate the inauguration of Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner with a special lecture on Friday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Theatre. MVCC will welcome David Brancaccio, award-winning journalist and author, and current anchor of the acclaimed PBS program "NOW." This event is open and free to the public, but seating is limited and on a first-come basis.

Dr. VanWagoner joined MVCC as its fifth president on July 1, 2007 and this event is in lieu of a traditional inauguration.

"I wanted to seize this opportunity to try something a little different," Dr. VanWagoner said. "This is an opportunity for the college to turn outward and engage our constituents in conversation and thinking about our community and the issues we face in this region."

As the anchor of PBS's "NOW," Brancaccio brings a down-to-earth style to his coverage of today's complex social, political, and business issues. He is passionate when it comes to exploring threats to the environment, human rights, and America's dysfunctional electoral system, with an eye on seeking positive change.

"We're helping people navigate the sea of sound bites by engaging them with thoughtful discourse about the issues important to regular Americans," said Brancaccio, who is a Waterville, Maine, native.

Brancaccio's discussion will focus on "A Changing Community and the Role of Education," drawing on his years of experience covering business and economic issues with in-depth stories. During his career he has been a champion of the common man by tackling stories that hit close to home such as America's vanishing pensions, health care reform, and accountability of public institutions.

As host of Marketplace on NPR, Brancaccio brought clarity and focus to a wide range of topics from business to technology to community development. An evening with Brancaccio promises to be inspiring and eye-opening on the reality of America in the new millennium.

Brancaccio earned a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in History and African Studies from Wesleyan University and a Maser in Journalism from Stanford University.



**PRESIDENT'S GUEST SPEAKER** - David Brancaccio will be the guest speaker lieu of a traditional inauguration for Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner as the fifth president of MVCC.

## Flu clinic for MVCC community

The MVCC Health Center will hold a Flu Clinic on Thursday, November 29, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Room 116 of the Alumni College Center on the Utica Campus.

This clinic is open to the MVCC Community and immediate family. The vaccine is for adults over the age of 18.

The cost is \$20 per person with Medicaid and Medicare Part B accepted as well as cash, check or Master Card.

MVCC nursing students will assist the Oneida County nurse to administer the vaccine.

To sign up, call MVCC Student Health Center by November 26, at 792-5452.



# Understanding Buddhism

A tutorial by Bill Hysell

According to the Buddha, "one must understand that the source of suffering lies within – not an external source."

According to the Buddha, "renounce negative attitudes (hatred, violence, desire) and replace them with positive attitudes (love, peace, unity)."

According to the Buddha, "one must act respectfully toward all things in the universe of being."

According to the Buddha, "eliminate those habits that foster an evil state of mind."



# MVCC Faces: Claire Rudka



**Claire Rudka**  
Senior Office Specialist

Claire Rudka is the newest member of the team in the Center for Community and Economic Development office.

When it comes to finding out information on the programs offered by the College's CCED, Mrs. Rudka is one of the people to turn to. This Deerfield resident holds the position of Senior Office Specialist and holds a Secretarial Science degree from SUNY Morrisville.

When not at work, she enjoys creating silk flower basket, knitting, crocheting, baking and spending time with her husband, Eric, and two children, Rick and Amy.



**FEEL THE BEAT** - Greg Collins teaches children from the Kiddie Campus how to play a beat on bongos.

## Kiddie Campus children learn percussion from Mr. Collins

Greg "Brimble" Collins gave a presentation on percussion instruments to children from MVCC's Kiddie Campus.

Mr. Collins, who works in the College's Facilities Department and is a member of several local bands, brought in over 50 of his instruments ranging from different types of shakers (maracas, shakere, kabbas) to several types of bells (cow bells, sleigh bells).

"Members of the Kiddie Campus saw me giving a presentation during this past Summer Institute and they thought it would be a great experience for the kids," said Mr. Collins.

He also brought in bongos, congo drums and djembe drums for the children to experience the power of rhythm. This is the second time Mr. Collins gave a presentation the Kiddie Campus, having done it three years ago.

"I really enjoy seeing the children learn rhythm and having fun doing so," said Mr. Collins, whose five brothers and four sisters are also musically inclined. "The kids were very positive and had good questions. Even the shy ones jumped into it."

The presentation wrapped up with the children parading around the room while playing the instruments.



## MVCC Campus Events

### Tuesday, Oct. 23

Mock Drug Court w/Judge John Balzano, IT 225, 3:00 p.m.  
Women's Soccer at Finger Lakes CC in NJCAA Region III  
Playoffs, 3:00 p.m.  
Men's Soccer hosts SUNY Delhi in NJCAA Region III  
Playoffs, 3:30 p.m.  
Meet the Candidates Forum, Theatre, 4:00 p.m.  
Yoga/Ballroom Dancing, ACC 116, 5:30 p.m.  
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, Oct. 24

Luncheons with Pizzazz, Rome Hospitality, 11:45 a.m.  
Yoga, ACC 116, 5:15 p.m.  
Cultural Series Lecture: "Celebrating Baseball at World Series  
Time" by Tim Wiles, Director of Research at the National  
Baseball Hall of Fame, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.  
Women Volleyball at Jefferson CC, 7:00 p.m.  
MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116, 7:30 p.m.  
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 8:00 p.m.

### Thursday, Oct. 25

Cultural Series Recital: Pianist Sar Shalom-Strong, Theatre,  
12:30 p.m.  
Keuka College Representatives, ACC 212, 6:00 p.m.  
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

### Friday, Oct. 26

Student Congress, ACC 212, 1:00 p.m.  
Respiratory Care Program Reunion, IT 225/Lobby, 6:00 p.m.  
Ballroom Dancing, AB Lobby, 7:00 p.m.  
Cultural Series Dinner Theatre: "My Dead Lady,"  
MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.  
President VanWagoner's Inauguration and  
Lecture by David Brancaccio, Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

### Saturday, Oct. 27

Cross Country at Region III at SUNY Delhi, 11:00 a.m.  
Men's Soccer at NJCAA Region III Playoffs, TBA  
Women's Soccer at NJCAA Region III Playoffs, TBA  
Halloween Dance, MV Commons, 9:00 p.m.

### Sunday, Oct. 28

Ice Hockey hosts Erie CC at Utica Aud., 2:00 p.m.  
Men's Soccer at NJCAA Region III Playoffs, TBA  
Women's Soccer at NJCAA Region III Playoffs, TBA

### Monday, Oct. 29

Chess Club: Informal games, ACC 114, 3:30 p.m.  
Cultural Series Movie: Sleepy Hollow, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.  
Cultural Series Lecture: Ross Allison, Ghost Hunter,  
Plumley Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.  
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, Oct. 30

Ice Hockey hosts Broome CC at Utica Aud., 7:00 p.m.  
Acoustic 'Spooky' Café Performance: Leif Olsen  
and Dave Snediker, ACC 116, 7:00 & 8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, Oct. 31

Rome Club Day/Halloween, Plumley Atrium, 10:00 a.m.

### Thursday, November 1

Rome Hospital Workshop, Rome's PC A10, 7:00 p.m.

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

By Paul Katchmar

As I indicated in my last installment, there are many projects coming out of Information Technology that will have a wide ranging effect on the campus community for students, faculty, and staff. Today, I will concentrate on the migration to MS-Office 2007, Windows Vista, our Network Upgrade, the New Phone System and improved access to the internet.

As has traditionally been the case, instructional computing requirements drive the migration schedules through the various new versions of MS-Windows and MS-Office. Per the direction of our academic departments, MS-Office 2007 was installed for initial usage this fall in our Academic Labs. Unfortunately, in updating the labs with the more contemporary software, it creates a "dual MS-Office environment" on campus for a period of time until all of the faculty/staff computers can also be updated.

Any new computers for labs, faculty and staff that go into production from here on will include MS-Office 2007. In support of this, several training sessions designed to assist in adjusting to the nuances of MS-Word 2007 have been announced.

These sessions will begin on October 25th and continue until the demand is met and will be followed by MS-Excel 2007 training. If you need more information on the training or need to schedule a customized time, please contact Norma Chrisman at extension #5398.

MS-Windows Vista is also on the distant horizon and although definitive plans for implementation have not been formulated, our tentative target date for the Academic Labs is the fall semester of 2008. We do know however that the hardware on many of our computers is not sufficient to run MS-Vista, therefore the first step in this initiative is to determine the exact scope and cost of the problem and to upgrade the computers accordingly. I'll report further on this in the spring.

Our network upgrade that will support over 1,000 computers and printers and ultimately our new phone system, which began in earnest around the middle of the summer. With the magnitude of this project, a phased conversion approach is underway in order to limit interruptions to network service. At the time of this writing, Information Technology Staff in the IT Building (not academic labs) are now running on the new network as well as the connections in the Science and Technology Building.

The gym will be converted later this week followed by the Academic Building, Payne Hall and the Rome Campus buildings.

Implementation of the new phone system depends on 100 percent completion of the network upgrade and a "quality of service" assurance. A mid November completion date for the new network is expected. An exact timeline for the phone cutover has not been formulated but work on the new phone

'Information Technology' Continued on Page 4

## Tipping our hat to those at MVCC who go above and beyond

### *We salute groups of students who volunteered to help others*

The following students were participants of our health fair and prostate screening (Thursday, September 20). Everyone has commented on how well prepared and professional they were. Thanks for sending these wonderful students to us. It made our job easier by having them with us.

Komal Patel  
Lisa Bjork  
Jesssica Barr  
Adel Brown  
Stefanie Moore  
Karen Scanio

Jessica Barr and Lisa Bjork also volunteered to help out at our Strides Against Breast Cancer walk next month. We thought that was great!

The following students volunteered their time to assist in Prostate Screening in Rome, Utica and Herkimer: Alex Selepina, Tina Woodcock, Georgia Smith, Shelly Guski, Marissa Count. The nursing faculty acknowledges the professionalism and spirit of volunteerism demonstrated by these senior nursing students.

**Thanks,**  
**Kathy Russo R.N.**  
**Project Coordinator**  
**Colorectal /Prostate Screening Program**

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*.

## *New 'accessibility' software will benefit virtually everyone*

**By Lynn Igoe**

The Disability Services office recently collaborated with Paul Katchmar and Sergey Myalik from IT to purchase software that will eventually be installed on every computer on campus. Called Premier Accessibility Suite, the software is intended to allow individuals with reading and or writing disabilities (as the result of a learning disability or vision loss) to access all of the functions a computer is designed to perform.

Through optical character recognition, the program can read the words and numbers that appear on the computer screen to someone who can't process them due to a learning disability or vision impairment, and it features a Zoom text feature for people who need large print. Those with written language deficits will be able to have the computer read back to them what they have written – and because most of these individuals can hear their mistakes even though they can't see them, it will enable them to proofread and correct their own work.

**But this software is not just an effective tool for individuals with disabilities.** Students with weak reading or writing skills and ESL students, for example, can benefit enormously from these language aids. And who hasn't sent out e-mails or produced other written work on the computer, only to see – too late – that in spite of having read it over before it left for its destination, it went out with one or more typos? Listening before sending it will in most cases prevent that from happening. In addition, Premier has a talking dictionary and a talking calculator and one of the most comprehensive word prediction programs currently available.

If you'd like more information, or even a quick tutorial, contact LD Specialist Tasha Peterson in the Disability Services Office at 5702 or via e-mail.

## **'Information Technology'**

Continued from Page 3

system is already occurring in the background. I will notify you when the timeline and milestones are exactly defined, but rest assured that appropriate advanced training will occur before the live implementation. However, my best hunch is to look for the new phone system to go live around the start of the 2008 year.

Lastly, I'd like to report on our campus bandwidth supporting your connections to the internet. I'm sure you've noticed that during peak usage periods your response time for internet service can be a bit sluggish. In response to an ever increasing demand for network bandwidth, we will be upgrading our bandwidth by more than triple this coming weekend with the new service being connected on Friday, October 26, at 3:30 p.m.

Unfortunately, it will take approximately 48 hours before all world-wide locations on the internet locate the new service supporting the [www.mvcc.edu](http://www.mvcc.edu) domain. Because of this, some (not all) incoming emails from off campus may "bounce back" to the sender, but in most instances, the sending email service will successfully resend the message. All internet applications should be relatively normal by Monday morning, October 29th.

Once again, feedback, ideas or questions are always welcome so please feel free to contact me at [pkatchmar@mvcc.edu](mailto:pkatchmar@mvcc.edu), extension #5510 or in IT158.

## **Placement Test Score Workshop**

MVCC's Advisement Department and Placement Testing Office will hold a faculty-advisors' Placement Test Score Workshop on Thursday, October 25, from 3:15-4:00 p.m., Friday, October 26, from 10:00-10:45 a.m., and Monday, November 5, from 2:00-2:45 p.m. These workshops will be held in Room 220 in the Information Technology Building.

## Strategic Planning Committee minutes from 9/13 meeting

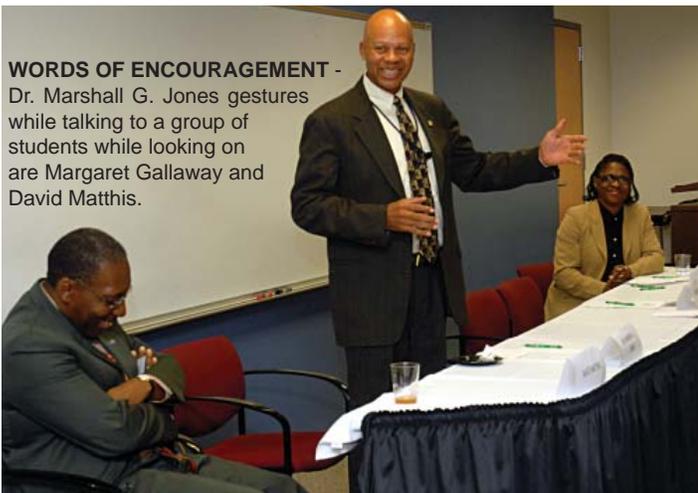
The following are the minutes from MVCC's Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) meeting held on Thursday, September 13.

1. The agenda was approved as with the following addition of "Discussion of the Duties of a Strategic Planning Committee member." This topic was held over from the May 7 meeting.
2. No Public Comments.
3. The minutes of the May 7 meeting were approved.
4. The 2008-2009 Priority Objectives: At the January 15, 2007 SPC meeting, the committee voted to approve a schedule for the selection, approval and distribution of priority objectives to the college community. This schedule included selection of priority objectives by September 15 and SPC approval of the objectives by September 30. President VanWagoner suggested a modification of this schedule to allow the SPC to hold a retreat in early October. The SPC would select priority objectives at the retreat, which would be presented to the Board of Trustees the following week. The priority objectives would also be available for review by focus groups conducted by the Marketing Office in October. The reviewed priority objectives would be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at their November or December meeting. Priority objectives would be available for use by departments in the 2008-2009 budget process.
5. It was decided that the SPC would hold a retreat on Tuesday, October 2, and Wednesday, October 3.
6. A proposed schedule of Self Study Open Forums was distributed. In addition to these open forums, it was suggested that forums be conducted coincident with other group meetings such as Department Head and staff meetings.
7. SPC activities for the upcoming year will be determined following the committee retreat and committee review of data provided before the retreat.
8. At the May 7, 2007 meeting, the SPC discussed a draft of a description of SPC member duties. Additional time to complete revisions was requested.
9. There has been some discussion of the proposed Green Campus Initiative and this topic will be included in the materials provided to SPC members.
10. President Van Wagoner asked SPC members to consider when there might be an opportunity to review the college's mission and vision statement. Discussion ensued on the need for revisions and on suitable times for the review. Given the volume of material to be reviewed before and at the retreat, there may not be sufficient time to review the statements as part of that process. A course of action may be developed, however, as part of this process.

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

### WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT -

Dr. Marshall G. Jones gestures while talking to a group of students while looking on are Margaret Gallaway and David Matthis.



## Alumni encourage minority students to overcome adversity

Dr. Marshall G. Jones was one of four guest speakers at this fall's CSTEP (Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program) workshop that focused on "Being Black in America's Infrastructure."

This workshop brought in prominent African Americans who are MVCC alumni. They included Dr. Jones, Margaret Gallaway, David Matthis and Morris Pearson.

Dr. Jones is one of the nation's foremost researchers in the field of laser technology, holding 48 U.S. Patents in the field. He graduated from MVCC in the mid-1960s and earned his Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan. His Ph.D. is in the same field of study from the University of Massachusetts.

He talked to the students about having a P.L.A.N. when it comes to education.

**P** - Have a **P**lan mapped out and a method for achieving academic and professional goals.

**L** - **L**earning never stops. It continues throughout life.

**A** - Maintain a positive **A**ttitude. This will help in overcoming adversity.

**N** - Be **N**ice. People are more willing to help good-hearted individuals reach their goals.

Mrs. Gallaway, from the Resource Center for Independent Living, talked to the students about perseverance. How working through projects the individual may not like, but that person will grow and expand their mind from the exposure. She emphasized that students should always take advantage of a learning experience.

Mr. Matthis, Director of Oneida County Workforce Development, discussed how coming from an impoverished background shouldn't hinder anyone's dreams. Expanding on what Dr. Jones and Mrs. Gallaway said, Mr. Matthis said "If your plan doesn't work out, you need to have options to find new employment. That is where perseverance, attitude and strength of character comes in."

Mr. Pearson, Executive Assistant to the Vice-President of Student Services at MVCC, discussed about being responsible for decision made in life.

# 2007-2008 MVCC Winter Athletic Schedules

## Saturday, November 3

Women's Basketball hosts Finger Lakes CC,  
1:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball hosts Finger Lakes CC,  
3:00 p.m.

## Sunday, November 4

Ice Hockey at Monroe CC, 2:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, November 6

Ice Hockey at Hudson Valley CC, 6:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, November 7

Women's Basketball at T-CCC, 5:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball at T-CCC, 7:00 p.m.

## Friday, November 9

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

## Saturday, November 10

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.

## Tuesday, November 13

Women's Basketball hosts Broome CC,  
6:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball host Broome CC,  
8:00 p.m.

## Saturday, November 17

Women's Basketball at Columbia-Greene CC,  
1:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball at Columbia-Greene CC,  
3:00 p.m.  
Ice Hockey hosts CC of Morris (NJ)  
at Utica Aud., 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, November 18

Ice Hockey hosts Erie CC at Utica Aud.,  
12:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, November 20

Women's Basketball hosts Cayuga CC,  
6:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball hosts Cayuga CC, 8:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, November 27

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

## Wednesday, November 28

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

## Thursday, November 29

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

## Saturday, December 1

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.

## Tuesday, December 4

Women's Basketball at Onondaga CC,  
6:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball at Onondaga CC, 8:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, December 5

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

## Thursday, December 6

Women's Basketball at Schenectady CCC,  
5:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball at Schenectady CCC,  
7:00 p.m.

## Saturday, December 8

Women's Basketball hosts Genesee CC,  
1:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball hosts Genesee CC,  
3:00 p.m.  
Ice Hockey at North Country CC, TBA

## Sunday, December 9

Ice Hockey at North Country CC, TBA

## Tuesday, December 11

Women's Basketball hosts Jefferson CC,  
6:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball hosts Jefferson CC,  
8:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, December 12

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

## Thursday, December 13

Women's Basketball at Hudson Valley CC,  
6:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball at Hudson Valley CC,  
8:00 p.m.

## Friday, January 11

Ice Hockey vs. CC of Morris (NJ)  
at Hudson Valley CC, 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, January 13

Ice Hockey vs. SUNY Canton  
at Hudson Valley, CC, 11:00 a.m.

## Wednesday, January 16

Women's Basketball hosts SUNY Delhi,  
7:00 p.m.

## Thursday, January 17

Men's Basketball hosts Adirondack CC,  
7:00 p.m.

## Saturday, January 19

Women's Basketball at Corning CC,  
2:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball at Corning CC, 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, January 20

Ice Hockey at Monroe CC, 2:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, January 22

Women's Basketball hosts  
SUNY Cobleskill, 7:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, January 23

Ice Hockey at Broome CC, 7:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball hosts SUNY Delhi,  
7:00 p.m.

## Friday, January 25

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

## Saturday, January 26

Women's Basketball hosts  
Columbia-Greene CC, 1:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball hosts  
Columbia-Greene CC, 3:00 p.m.  
Ice Hockey hosts North Country CC  
at Utica Aud., 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, January 27

Ice Hockey hosts North Country CC  
at Utica Aud., 12:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, January 30

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

## Thursday, January 31

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

## Tuesday, February 5

Women's Basketball at SUNY Cobleskill,  
5:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball at SUNY Cobleskill,  
7:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, February 6

Ice Hockey at Hudson Valley CC, 6:45 p.m.

## Saturday, February 9

Women's Basketball hosts  
Hudson Valley CC, 1:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball hosts Hudson Valley CC,  
3:00 p.m.

## Sunday, February 10

Ice Hockey at Erie CC, 1:40 p.m.

## Tuesday, February 12

Women's Basketball at SUNY Delhi,  
5:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball at SUNY Delhi, 7:00 p.m.

## Thursday, February 14

Women's Basketball hosts  
Schenectady CCC, 5:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball hosts Schenectady CCC,  
7:00 p.m.

## Saturday, February 16

Women's Basketball at Herkimer CCC,  
1:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball at Herkimer CCC, 3:00 p.m.

## Sunday, February 17

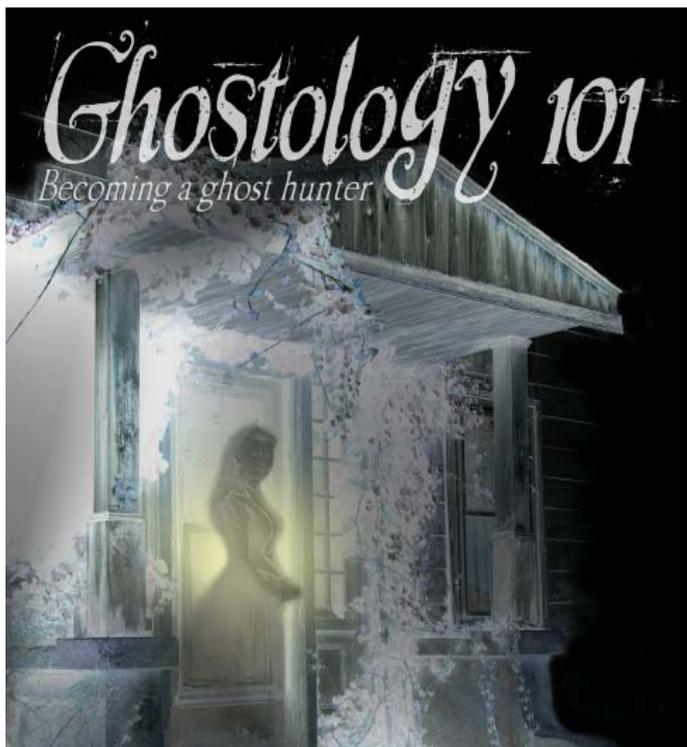
Ice Hockey at SUNY Canton, 2:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, February 20

Men's Basketball hosts SUNY Cobleskill,  
7:00 p.m.

## Saturday, February 23

Women's Basketball at  
Fulton-Montgomery CC, 1:00 p.m.  
Men's Basketball at  
Fulton-Montgomery CC, 3:00 p.m.



## Ghost Hunter on Rome Campus

Spirits will fill the night air on the Rome Campus during a presentation by "Ghost Hunter" Ross Allison on Monday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m., in the Plumley Complex Auditorium. Tickets for this Cultural Series event are \$5.00 general admission, \$3.00 with any college ID and children under 12 are free.

Allison is the President of AGHOST, the largest and most active ghost hunting group in the Northwest using scientific methods to study ghosts. His interest began with ghost stories told by his mother, and his 15 years of experience pursuing the unknown has lead him to the founding of the Seattle-based ghost hunting group.

**Allison** is well versed in the study of the paranormal, and conducts classes at the college level on such topics as Ghostology and Psychic Development.

For other exciting Cultural Series Events, visit [www.mvcc.edu/culture](http://www.mvcc.edu/culture). This event is sponsored by Rome Student Activities Association.

## Financial planner offers students help on staying out of debt

The MVCC Learning Center will present Peter Bielagus, a licensed financial planner and the author of *Getting Loaded: A Complete Personal Finance Guide For Students and Young Professionals* as a guest speaker on Wednesday, November 7, at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in Room 116 in the Alumni College Center.

Mr. Bielagus became a "Young America Financial Coach" the hard way - by falling deep into credit card debt. Six months into his freshman year, he owed the credit card companies more than \$5,000. Determined to get through this money maze, he began by reading what amounted to over 300 books on personal finance and human development, in-

## Notice to all Classified Staff

This is a reminder to all classified staff that Article XII.2 of the contract indicates that a maximum of 15 days of vacation time may be carried over from one year to the next. All vacation time beyond 15 days will be lost on January 1, 2008.

Employees who may be affected by this provision and who wish to take some vacation time during the rest of 2007 should check with their supervisors early so that arrangements can be made to grant the leave at a time that is mutually agreeable.

## Pianist to perform on Steinway

Music lovers from throughout the region can look forward to the delightful sounds of modern and traditional piano pieces played by Sar-Shalom Strong on the Steinway grand piano in the Theater. This performance, which is open and free to the public, will take place on Thursday, October 25, at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Strong is familiar to Central New York audiences where he has made numerous appearances with the Utica and Syracuse Symphonies. Along with serving on the faculty at Hamilton College and an affiliation with Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music, Mr. Strong has worked with a number of internationally recognized artists, including trombonist Joseph Alessi, flutist Judith Mendenhall, and soprano Helen Boatwright.

In August 2003 he was featured in a Hugo Wolf Lieder program at the Skaneateles Festival with baritone Sanford Sylvan and soprano Janet Brown, and most recently was a featured musician for a Sean Curran Dance Company production.

Mr. Strong earned a Masters of Music from Syracuse University, which included instruction from such renowned musicians as Martin Katz, Ellen Shade, Richard Hundley, and John Shirley-Quirk.

The program will feature the following pieces:

- Bach - Prelude and Fugue in A-flat, WTC II
- Beethoven - Pathetique Sonata, Op. 13
- Schubert - Impromptu in C minor, Op. 90, No.1
- Clara Schumann - Romance Variée, Op. 3
- Chopin - Mazurka in C-sharp minor, Op. 6, No. 2  
- Nocturne in B major, Op. 32, No 1
- Leos Janacek - On an Overgrown Path (2 or 3 excerpted movements)
- Armando Bayolo - Hopscotch, from Papillons Hallucigeniques (2001)

terviewing experts and attending seminars.

By graduation Mr. Bielagus had paid off his credit card debt.

Mr. Bielagus' goal is to help today's college students avoid the same pitfalls through offering speaking to collegiate organizations.

He will also be offering individual sessions to MVCC's students where they can ask questions and receive answers pertaining to their financial needs. These individual sessions will be held in the Snack Bar at noon.

For more information here is his web site: [www.peterb-speaks.com](http://www.peterb-speaks.com).