



Education's role in society topic of discussion during VanWagoner's Presidential Inauguration

A new era in Central New York began Friday evening with the official inauguration of Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner as President of Mohawk Valley Community College.

The brief inaugural ceremony took place in the MVCC Theatre on the Utica Campus. VanWagoner was appointed president by the MVCC Board of Trustees in April of this year, and officially joined the college on July 1.

During the ceremony, he was presented with the official college seal by Sheila Vandever, Chairperson of the MVCC Board of Trustees.

Dr. VanWagoner spoke about the themes of his presidency thus far, basing his remarks on the concepts of Access, Excellence and Engagement.

He emphasized MVCC's role as an open-door institution, and noted that the college would do more to reach underserved populations through open access.

He also remarked on the challenges of maintaining academic excellence and encouraging student engagement in times of rapid change in the landscape of higher education.

Following the brief inaugural ceremony, guests and the public were treated to a lecture by guest speaker David Brancaccio, award-winning journalist and current anchor of the acclaimed PBS program "NOW." Brancaccio discussed the role of education in an ever changing society, drawing on his years of experience covering business and economic issues.

Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner became just the fifth president in the College's 61-year history. His predecessor, Dr. Michael I. Schafer (1983-2007), retired on June 30, 2007 after 24 years. The previous college presidents were Dr. Albert Payne (1953-1968), Dr. W. Stewart Tosh (1968-1974), and Dr. George H. Robertson (1974-1983).



LIVING ROOM DISCUSSION - President VanWagoner discusses the changing economic landscape and how education plays a part in preparing today's workforce for tomorrow with award-winning journalist David Brancaccio during a non-traditional inauguration ceremony on Friday in the theatre.

Coming soon to a parking lot near you!

The College will have two new gates installed in the near future in the Professional staff parking area outside of Payne Hall and behind the Gymnasium by the tennis courts.

These new gates will require the use of a new, proximity-style card to gain access for parking lots. Because the cards many faculty and staff currently use will be de-activated, all Professional staff who intend to use these parking areas are being asked to apply for a new proximity card. Once the cards are available in Security, the College will notify everyone to fill out a new registration form to receive their new card.

The cards currently in use for access to these parking areas will no longer be valid once the new gates are operational, and will not work in the new card readers.

The College will do its best to give everyone ample time to apply for a new card before the gates become operational.

Keep your eye on Communitas and your email for updates on this project.

Understanding Islam

A tutorial by Keith Lynip

"For a fifth of the world's population, Islam is both a religion and a way of life."



"Over a billion people from a vast range of races, nationalities and cultures across the globe--from the southern Philippines to Nigeria--are united by their common Islamic faith. About 18 percent live in the Arab world; the world's largest Muslim community is in Indonesia"



ALUMNI HONOREE - President VanWagoner, left, was joined by President of the MVCC Alumni Association David Mathis, right, in presenting Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr., with an Alumni Achievement Award on Thursday, October 25, during a ceremony at the Oneida County Office Building in Utica. Mr. Picente is the first MVCC graduate to serve as Oneida County Executive.

Alumni Association recognizes County Executive with award

President Randall VanWagoner, along with members of the MVCC Alumni Association, presented Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr., with the "Alumni in the Community Award" today, honoring Picente's achievement as the first MVCC graduate to serve as Oneida County Executive. The ceremony took place at the County Executive's Office in Utica.

"Honoring our County Executive is not only important and appropriate for all that he has accomplished, but is also symbolic of what is possible for anyone who graduates from MVCC," said Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner, President. "Our college is centered on the mission of offering choice, opportunity and hope to all who desire a college education."

Picente, a 1984 graduate who majored in criminal justice, said he appreciated the college's honor. "Mohawk Valley Community College fills a very important niche in this region," Picente said. "For students coming out of high school, adults looking for a new and better direction, or the next generation of skilled workers looking for the right training they need to get ahead. MVCC provides the education and training that opens the doors to success. At a personal level, MVCC gave me the opportunity to take my life in a different direction, and started me on the road to public service and government. What MVCC did for me then, it does every day for hundreds of students."

MVCC counts some 30,000 alumni since its founding in 1946, as New York State's first community college.



REUNION - Graduates from the Respiratory Care Program gathered for a reunion on Friday, October 26, in the Information Technology Building.

Respiratory Care reunion

MVCC's Respiratory Care Program held its reunion for all graduates on Friday evening in the Information Technology Building with nearly 60 people in attendance.

The Respiratory Care Program has graduated 438 students since 1974. The alumni and their guests were given tours of the updated anatomy lab and respiratory lab. Also in attendance were program faculty and advisory committee members.

"The alumni thoroughly enjoyed the food, drink, music and camaraderie of the evening," said Professor Lorie Phillips, Respiratory Care Program Director. "Your participation helped make the first ever respiratory program reunion a success."

Along with the refreshments were 10 door prizes and alumni profile booklets.

Did you know:
CCED's Corporate Training Division provided 63,990 hours of customized training to 1154 students in 50 different companies in this fiscal year.

MVCC Campus Events

Tuesday, Oct. 30

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

Wednesday, October 31

Brown Bag Luncheon, ACC 116, 12:00 p.m.
"Run For Your Life," Gym, 4:00 p.m.
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 1

Illusionist Leon Etienne, MV Commons, 12:00 p.m.
Keuka College Representative, ACC 212, 6:00 p.m.
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
Rome Hospital Workshop, Rome's PC A10, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 2

Student Congress, ACC 212, 1:00 p.m.
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
Performance: Magician Leon Etienne, Theatre, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 3

Women Volleyball at NJCAA Region III Playoffs, 10:00 a.m.
Family Film Series: Raiders of the Lost Ark, PC Auditorium,
12:00 p.m.
Women's Basketball hosts Finger Lakes CC, 1:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball hosts Finger Lakes CC, 3:00 p.m.
Concert: Carmen Caramanica Jazz Trio, Theatre, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 4

Women Volleyball at NJCAA Region III Playoffs, 10:00 a.m.
Ice Hockey at Monroe CC, 2:00 p.m.

Monday, November 5

Chess Club: Informal games, ACC 114, 3:30 p.m.
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
Movie: Monsoon Wedding, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 6

Small Works Gallery - Marjorie Van Cura: Chimeras & Other
Visual Trickery, IT 225, 2:00 p.m.
College Senate, PH 300, 2:30 p.m.
Concert: Black Violin, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.
Ice Hockey at Hudson Valley CC, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 7

Women's Basketball at Tompkins-Cortland CC, 5:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball at Tompkins-Cortland CC, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 9

Workshop: Chicago City Limits Presents "Laughing Matters,"
ACC 116, 3:00 p.m.
Movie: Flatland - The Film, PC Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
Performance: Chicago City Limits Presents "Laughing
Matters," Theatre, 8:00 p.m.
MVCC Men's Basketball Tournament, 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 10

Cross Country at NJCAA Championships at Suffolk CC,
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.



ROAD TRIP TO CLARKSON - MVCC students visiting Clarkson University were Pavel Vabishchevich, Eric Schuler, Krystal Alger, Josh Klossner, Steve Kana, Nick Iselo, Martin Ofalt, Nick McCormick and Benjamin Smith.

MVCC's engineering science students visit Clarkson U.

On October 18, 2007, nine students from MVCC's Engineering Science program visited Clarkson University. The students were introduced to Clarkson by way of a campus tour. This tour involved classrooms, dorm rooms, gymnasium, field house and student dining areas. The tour also included a presentation in the Engineering labs where all the design and testing is done on many of the "Speed" projects.

These projects include the mini Baja car, low noise and emissions snowmobiles, solar cars, lightweight unicycle cars and the famous concrete boat design. After lunch with five of the top MVCC graduates in Engineering and Computer Science, the students met with faculty in disciplines they were interested in. They were able to ask questions of the Clarkson University engineering professors that will help them ready themselves for applying to Clarkson.

Clarkson has offered two transfer scholarships to MVCC students. One scholarship is for nine- thousand dollars for two years and the second one is for eleven- thousand dollars for two years. These scholarships are additional to what financial aid the college offers.

Clarkson is very happy to admit our students in Engineering Science because they are so well prepared.

Trish Dobbs and Minka Degan provided a gift bag for each student in appreciation of the students traveling to the college. These trips to various engineering schools have been very important in keeping our students on the right track.

Rome Campus to host Trick-or-Treat

The Rome Student Activities Association is sponsoring a Halloween Trick-or-Treat event for local children at the College's Rome Campus.

Children up to age 12 are invited to wear their costumes Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. and visit the Atrium of the Plumley Complex for treats and cider. The event is free and open to children from the Rome community.

MVCC Board of Trustees minutes from October meeting

The MVCC Board of Trustees met Monday, October 15, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 300 on the third floor of Payne Hall on the Utica Campus.

Reports

Treasurer's Report – Ralph Feola, Vice President for Administration, reported the monthly financial statements were not available at this time as all accounts must remain open for review and verification by the College's independent auditors.

President's Report – Dr. Randall VanWagoner asked the three vice-presidents to give updates on their departments.

Vice-President DiGiorgio reported on the status of the Child Care Center which is celebrating 20 years at the College. The Center has 33 students, mostly part-time. She also reported that Auxiliary Services handled over \$1.8 million in bookstore sales and \$1.9 million in residence hall charges for the fall semester. Also introduced was BERT – Behavior Evaluation Response Team. DiGiorgio briefly discussed the need and purpose for BERT in the college environment.

Vice-President Feola reported on Statement #16, which recognized the costs associated with unused vacation time and sick time that relate to the payout of health benefits. He also discussed Statement #45, requiring the systemic measurement of all other post retirement benefits for both retirees and active employees. The College's unrecorded post retirement liability as of August 31 was approximately \$21,257,000 of which approximately \$1,600,000 will be accrued this year. Feola also gave an update on the College's Landscape Project accepting sealed bids.

Vice-President Engel introduced Dr. Robert Musante, Assistant Professor of the Humanities Department who recently successfully defended his dissertation on William Blake.

Deadline for scholarship applications nears

MVCC is helping to off-set the ever rising cost of college by offering nearly 100 scholarships through the Office of Institutional Advancement. But students need to hurry in order to take advantage of this semester's scholarships as the deadline is November 15.

MVCC's Office of Institutional Advancement provides nearly \$250,000 annually in scholarships. To apply or receive an application, visit their 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.

The money from scholarships can be used to pay for books, tuition and fees as well as living expenses. The scholarships awarded this semester will be available for the beginning of the Spring Semester.

She discussed the progress made under the new format for department head meetings.

Dr. VanWagoner introduced Samson Olaode, the new Upward Bound Project Director, who gave a power-point presentation on the program.

Chairman's Report – Sheila Vandever distributed the 2007-2008 Board of Trustees Committees. They are as follows: Audit & Finance – Yagey (chair), Falvo, Stetson; Student Services – Wolf (chair), Mathis, Mujevic; Academic Affairs – Calli (chair), Wolf, Mujevic; Millennium Policy – Falvo (chair), Calli, Mathis; Foundation Board Appointees – Falvo, Mathis, Yagey; Executive/Foundation – Falvo; Auxiliary Services – Calli; NYCCT/ACCT – Mathis; Nominating – Yagey (chair), Wolf, Stetson; Dorm Corp. – Wolf (chair), Stetson (vice-chair).

Student Trustee Report – Selma Mujevic announced success of the student barbeque and thanked President VanWagoner for attending; six student delegates attended the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities workshop in Liverpool; and informed the Board of future events to be held on campus.

Appointments

The appointment of these individuals as adjunct faculty was ratified for the Fall 2007, Fall 2008 and Spring 2008 Semesters and future semesters as needed: Janet Best, Melanie Biss, Louis Faga, and Shannon Ortez.

The appointment of Janet Fortnam to the position of Instructor in the Health Services Department be ratified;

The appointment of Andrew J. Lachut to the position of Instructor in the Life Sciences Department be ratified;

The appointment of Todd Kubica to the position of Upward Bound Program Coordinator be ratified.

Magician Leon Etienne performs Friday

Magician Leon Etienne will present an evening of magic and illusion on Friday, November 2, at 8:00 p.m. in the College's theatre. Tickets are \$10.00 general admission, \$5.00 with any college ID, \$2 with MVCC ID and children under 12 are free. Tickets can be purchased through the MVCC Bookstore by calling 735-2945.

What started as a childhood interest in magic quickly turned into a promising career for Etienne as his two-hour magical stage performances have won rave reviews across the country. His magic features everything from Vegas-style illusions to award-winning sleight of hand. With over ten years of professional performing experience, his passion and love for the art of magic has taken him all over the globe, performing in places such as New York, Miami, Dublin, and London.

