

# Communitas



MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of December 15, 2008

## Message from the President

### Employee Recognition Party brings MVCC together

Last year a design team was chartered to research and explore ideas to make thoughtful and daring recommendations that would significantly expand the College's employee recognition efforts.

Patty Fox and Marie Kohl chaired the original group, which included Kate Barefoot, Carol Gawarecki, Sue Halbritter, Bob Jubenville, Mike Kopec, Dick Suhr, and Chuck Svoboda. The Employee Recognition Design Team did an admirable job that resulted in a broad ranging list of recommendations.

Part of John Bullis' responsibilities, as the College's new Executive Director of Organizational Development, involve the expansion, coordination, and integration of both internal and external employee recognition activities on both campuses, so I asked him to get involved in the process back in August to help formulate a workable approach implement some of the key recommendations. Many others throughout the institution have joined this effort as well.

This past Tuesday afternoon (December 16th), over 225 MVCC employees participated what is expected to be an annual, fall semester-end Holiday Party/Celebration of Success, designed to be one component of a multi-faceted effort to recognize - and thank - every faculty and staff member who brings their best to MVCC every day!

In addition to music and refreshments, ticket donations and door prize raffles raised over \$1500 to support the local chapter of the Salvation Army in the name of all MVCC



**CUTTING THE RUG** - David Katz of the Social Sciences Department and Terry Kipers from the Kiddie Campus get into the groove of the music during the Employees Recognition Party this week in the lobbies of the Information Technology Building.

employees! We hope to continue this tradition - selecting a different local charity each year.

This party was a wonderful opportunity to get together in a relaxed setting to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the many successes achieved throughout the fall semester. I want to publicly thank all those who worked together to organize and conduct this wonderful semester-end event.

This spring, with the support of the College Cabinet, the Design Team will roll out plans for a comprehensive annual recognition program, to start with the fall '09 semester, which will provide many opportunities to celebrate the broad range of excellence found at MVCC throughout the year.

MVCC is a wonderful community college with enormous potential. Your daily efforts to make this a special place and pursue that potential are gratefully received and deeply appreciated. Thanks.

Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.  
President, Mohawk Valley Community College



**GREAT COMPANIONSHIP** - There were lots of laughs going around during the Employee Recognition Party. Enjoying themselves here are: Ellen Krol, Rhona Patterson, Kim Overrocker, LaToy Richardson, Carol Garawrecki, Carla Zupancic, Claire Rudka, and Ed Sadjickowski.

## Barbara Evans completes library management certificate

Barbara Evans, Librarian-Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Library Services at the Rome Campus, has completed a course of study leading to a certificate in library management.



Evans

The course is offered through the Leadership and Management Academy of the New York Library Association. Enrollment is limited to 40 students each year, and is designed for librarians in mid-level management positions. Participants are required to complete ten courses over a three year period to receive a

Leadership and Management Academy Certificate.

The courses include Leadership and Management Practices, Communication and Presentation Skills, Budgeting, Conflict Resolution and Team Building, Time Management and Organizational Skills, Strategic Planning, Fundraising and Board Relations, Facility/Building Management, Legal Issues, and Human Resources.

## Administrators during the holiday vacation

For those employees working during the December break: The following administrators will be in charge of the College during the break. Please contact them if you encounter any difficulties or emergencies:

December 26: VP Maryrose Eannace 792-5301

December 29: VP Ralph Feola 792-5445

December 30: VP Denise DiGiorgio 792-5324

December 31: Nancy Gerzonich 792-5347

January 2: President Randy VanWagoner 792-5333

Any UPSEU clerical person who had notified us that you were planning to work, and whose plans change, needs to please notify them. They should be apprised of any illness, early departures, etc. Please also contact them if you have any situations which require guidance or assistance.

Thanks, and enjoy a wonderful holiday season!

Patricia H. Fox  
Director of Human Resources

"Anything you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it."



**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)**  
Author, Poet and Theologian

Submitted by William Rose, Instructor, Social Science

## MVCC Faces: Tamara Mariotti



Tamara Mariotti plays an important role in helping students with disabilities reach their full potential while at MVCC. As the College's Learning and Assistive Technology Specialist in the Disability Services Office, Mariotti's responsibilities include providing information and support to these students and faculty.

"I help students with learning disabilities during their college experience and coordinate the technology needed for people with disabilities to be successful," said Mariotti, who joined MVCC in October.

Her devotion to helping people with disabilities goes beyond the college as she is a member of the Disability Rights Coalition and the Advocacy Committee at the Resource Center for Independent Living. Mariotti was also honored for her work when she received the Robert J Uplinger Distinguished Service Award, for exemplary coordination of consumer services associated with the Lions Hearing Loan-Out Center in 2006.

She holds an AAS degree in Medical Technology from SUNY Alfred and a Bachelor of Science in Education from SUNY Cortland.

When not at work, this Utica resident enjoys camping and music along with being a "fan club of my children's activities." She and her husband, Phil Mariotti, have three children - Nicholas who is a freshman at Proctor High School, Meghan who is at JFK Middle School, and Jenna who is in pre-school.

Other organizations she belongs to include the Alliance for Technology Access, the Mohawk Valley Learning Association, AHEAD (Association of Higher Education Association for Disability), and NYS Disability Services Council.

# *Social Sciences Department in miniature*



**CAN YOU GUESS WHO THEY ARE?** - Professor Sarah Coleman of the Social Sciences Department made miniature representations of her co-workers for the holiday season. Dr. Coleman made most of the clothing by hand and styled the hair and beard through different techniques that

included using a microwave oven. Take a guess who these instructors are and the answer will be posted in the first issue of *Communitas* for the Spring Semester.



**OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW** – When it comes to spreading the word about MVCC, the College has a new outlet with the installation of the digital sign (left) at the corner of Sherman Drive and Memorial Parkway. This new marquee sign replaces the old one, seen above. The new sign was installed by Ray Signs of Schenectady and will feature colored graphics while facing two3 directions on the road. The sign is expected to be operational within the next few weeks and will be remotely operated through the College's data network. The display area measures 7 feet, 9 inches wide by 3 feet, 7 inches high.

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

# MVCC exhibits the spirit of giving



**BRIGHTENING THE HOLIDAYS** - Members of the college community has helped to make the holidays a bit brighter for 27 children.

## College steps forward to help 27 children

In the true spirit of Christmas, faculty and staff at MVCC came together to help 27 children have a joyous morning on Christmas Day.

With the help of Captain Frank Picciotto from the Salvation Army, the college received the “wish lists” of 27 children from the area whose families needed some help this holiday. The lists consisted of clothing items and one toy gift. Members of the college community stepped forward and became an “Angel” this Christmas.

The following individuals contributed to this wonderful cause: Alma King, Bev Hertline, Marie Kohl, Bob Jubenville, Theresa Paladino, Kate Barefoot, Karen Pettigrew, Janet Visalli, Toni Carbone, Margaret Decker, Anna Dousharm, Mike Chauvin, Anne Popeo, Lynn Igoe, Judy Zilske, Jackie Womack, Patty Fox, David Katz, Ellen Klotz and the Sodexo staff, Mike Alsheimer, Mary Ellen Hart, Latoya Richardson, Colleen Cornmire, Mary Jane Parry, Nancy Light, Rose Button, Deb O’Donnell, Rosemary Spetka, Annette Broski, Tamara Mariotti, Donna Skibitski, Joann Dickson, Kathy Bernstein, Franca Armstrong and Dennis Gibbons.

The MVCC Mission Statement commits us to “community involvement” and a “spirit of service.” One only needs to observe the campus this Holiday Season to see that we are achieving this part of our mission gloriously. As engagement and service is our manta, then “giving” is our work!

- Over twenty four students and employees volunteered as bellringers for the Salvation Army. Student Congress organized the student effort!

- Twenty seven “angel lists” were filled. These lists are wishes of clothes and toys for children in need. Mary Ellen Hart spearheaded this campaign.

- We raised in excess of \$1500 at our employee holiday party, through cash donations and door prize raffles! This gift was given to the local Salvation Army.

- The Residence Council hosted an on-campus party for children attending Kiddie Campus.

- The Alumni Board sponsored a Red Cross blood-drive that collected 111 units.

- Our annual United Way effort exceeded our institutional goal of \$9000 by over 10%!

- The Student Nurse Organization served the needy at Hope House this past week!

To the MVCC Community,

The Kiddie Campus Child Care Center would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the many generous individuals who participated in our Holiday Helpers Program. The parents were overwhelmed with the gifts provided. You have made a child’s Christmas brighter. We appreciate the support. Happy Holidays to all!!!!

Jerylann George,  
Director of Child Care Services

# 2008 WINTER COMMENCEMENT SNAPSHOTS

Andrea Hart presented diploma by President VanWagoner



Anthony Gerardo and Matthew Grinnell give a cheer



Sabrina Nelson is all smiles



Brian Larsen gives address



Brittany Jacobs waves to friends



## Hospitality students get real-world experience during Turning Stone's PGA tournament

Students in the Hospitality Program received first-hand experience this past semester when the entire department was invited for the second year, to work with the food services from the Turning Stone Resort and Casino during the annual PGA tournament on the Atunyote Golf Course.

"It was a great opportunity for the students to interact with other professionals in their field," said Joanne DeTraglia. "Our students were fortunate because with this magnitude of an event, they are going to pick up skills they don't get in the classroom. You can't duplicate this experience in the classroom."

MVCC was represented by 25 to 30 students each day of the tournament, preparing and serving upscale meals to

the spectators, volunteers, staff and in the VIP dining tents. The students were afforded the opportunity to work with the cooks and chefs from the Turning Stone Resort's restaurants, where a number of MVCC graduates have found employment.

"This wasn't just coffee and doughnuts, hot dogs and hamburgers. Our students were in a real world atmosphere where they had to perform, be alert and remain very flexible," said DeTraglia. "For potential employers, it is good to see the students have been on such an adventurous event."

Students and instructors worked the PGA tournament for five days during the week and then many of the students volunteered to work Saturday and Sunday.

WISHING EVERYONE  
IN THE MVCC FAMILY  
A JOYOUS & SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON