



## Faculty/staff design and build device to better teach students

By Professor Jim Fiore  
Engineering Technologies & The Trades

### An Inside Job

What do you do when you need a piece of laboratory gear for a new course and nothing seems to fit the bill? If you happen to work with a bunch of engineers and other technical folks who also happen to have some quality lab equipment at their fingertips, you design and build precisely what you need, and save some money in the process. If you can get students involved, that's even better. That's exactly what occurred in the Engineering Technologies and Trades (ETT) Department this past semester.

I had developed a new course, ET106 Science of Sound, as a tier one natural science elective. Virtually all of the laboratory exercises made use of the existing equipment and facilities maintained for the Electrical Engineering Technology and Electrical Service Technician curriculums. After the initial offering of the course, I decided to add an exercise on tensioned strings as this is an area of interest for many students (guitar players in particular).

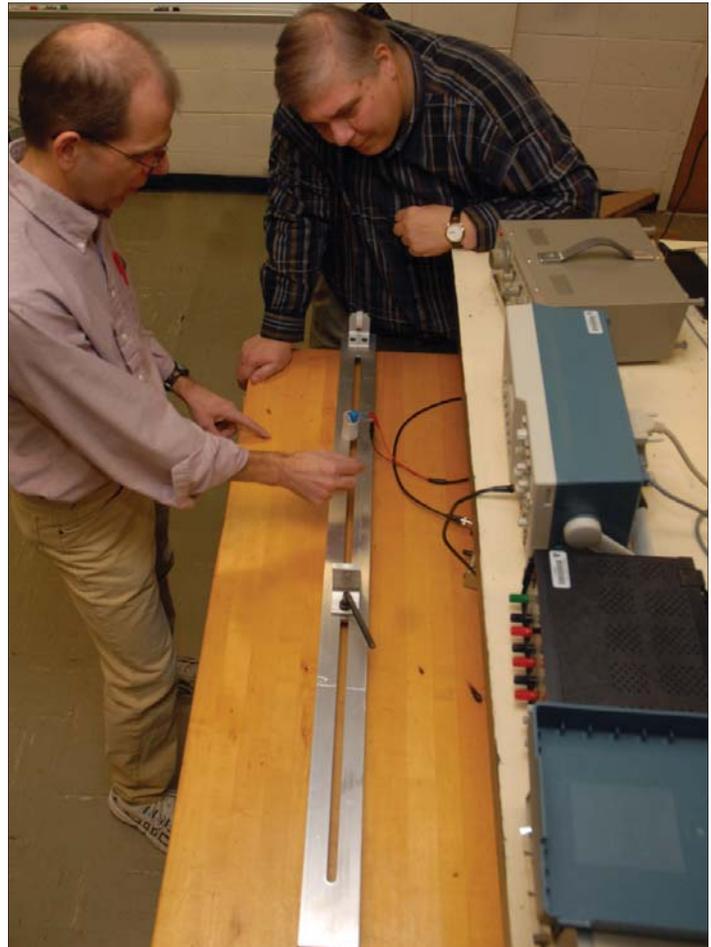
After searching the usual laboratory equipment catalogs for an appropriate device, I came up empty-handed.

While there are standard devices, sonometers, for this application, they are not intended for hook-up to electrical lab gear such as our digital oscilloscopes. The oscilloscopes allow us to examine the vibratory motions with much greater detail, store them, and also export them for analysis via our audio editing and analysis software. For example, we can investigate the overtone or harmonic structure instead of just looking at the fundamental resonance.

After discussing the situation with ETT Technical Assistant Paul Halko (a former machinist) and Assistant Professor Bryan Alguire who teaches machining, I came up with a prototype sketch for an appropriate device. Ron Miner, an assistant to Mr. Alguire, built the prototype which proved successful.

At this point, I designed and built a set of pickup coils for the device, similar to those used on electric guitars.

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**AN INSIDE JOB** - Members of the Engineering Technologies and Trades (ETT) Department designed and built a device that will be used to teach students the affect of tension on strings. Looking at the instrument are Professor Jim Fiore and ETT Technical Assistant Paul Halko.

## Fire inspection postponed

Due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict on the part of New York State, the annual fire inspections have been postponed and will be rescheduled for the week of March 10.

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control will complete the fire inspection for the Utica Campus on Monday, March 10. The Rome campus will be completed on Tuesday March 11.

Each device has a pickup coil which turns the string vibrations into an electrical waveform that can be fed into our digital oscilloscopes. I originally looked at purchasing some guitar pickups, but even cheap units were over \$50 each and these coils probably cost us about \$1 each.

We also managed to get students involved in the process. John Smith, a senior Electrical Engineering Technology major, did the final assembly and test of the pickup coils. Four of Mr. Alguire's students took part in manufacturing seven copies of the apparatus, including Jason Campione and Earl Romer who did most of the work, assisted by James Alger and Robert Mooney.

And the final outcome, it was a wonderful result. According to Bryan, materials cost was around \$50 per unit. By comparison, the catalog item which wasn't even quite what I wanted was around \$400, so we saved about \$2,800 total. The units worked great this semester; they're practically indestructible, and to top it off, our students managed to gain some experience in the process.

### **MVCC Ski Club arranges discount**

The MVCC Ski Club has made arrangements with Royal Mountain Ski Area in Caroga Lake to offer for college students and employees a discount. Just present an MVCC ID to receive two lift tickets for the price of one. Regular single price is \$33.

Royal Mountain Ski Area features 13 trails ranging from easy to very difficult. There are three chairlifts. The mountain is open Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To reach Royal Mountain, take the NYS Thruway to Exit 29 at Canajoharie. Travel north on Route 10 for about 15 miles to Royal Mountain.

## **MVCC Campus Events**

### **Friday, February 15**

Student Congress, ACC 212, 3:00 p.m.  
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 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.  
Bowling team at Schenectady Invitational, 10:00 a.m.

### **Monday, February 18**

Chess Club: Informal games, ACC 114, 3:30 p.m.

### **Tuesday, February 19**

Lecture: Frank Page – Cartoonist, IT 225, 3:00 p.m.  
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday, February 20**

Men's Basketball hosts SUNY Cobleskill, 7:00 p.m.  
Bowling team at Schenectady CCC, 3:00 p.m.  
Yoga Classes, ACC 116, 5:00 p.m.  
MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116, 7:00 p.m.  
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

# **Bowler named MVCC's Athlete of the Week**

Freshman Ryan Gahan had a phenomenal week on the lanes for MVCC, helping the Hawks men's bowling squad to two victories. For his performance, Gahan has been named MVCC's Athlete of the Week. Behind Gahan, the Hawks' record is now 31-3. This Business Management student's average is 232.5 pins per game.

**Men's Bowling:** The Hawks competed in four matches this week, placing first in the Mountain Valley Conference event at Adirondack Community College with 3,332 pins, first in the Blue and Orange Invitational in Wappinger Falls with 7,905 pins, second in their home match at Pin-O-Rama Lanes in Utica with 3,381 pins, and third at the Schenectady Invitational with 9,565 pins.

Leading MVCC at Adirondack CC was sophomore Jimmy Grago with a high game of 267 while sophomore Brett Cunningham threw the top series of 738. At the Hawks' home match, Gahan had the top series with 759 while tying Cunningham for the high game of 279.

In the Blue and Orange Invitational, the doubles team of Cunningham and Gahan placed first with a pin-fall of 1,250, while in the singles competition it was MVCC's Chris Ewen placing first with a 670 series. Overall, Gahan placed first with 1,400 pins. At the Schenectady Invitational, Cunningham and Gahan placed first in the doubles with 1,820 pins. Ewen was third in the singles with a 918 series and Gahan was third overall with 1,811 pins.

**Women's Bowling:** The Lady Hawks were at three of the same events this past week, finishing second at the Adirondack CC competition with 2,563 pins, second at Pin-O-Rama with 2,736 pins and sixth at the Schenectady Invitational with 7,536 pins.

Leading MVCC at Adirondack was sophomore Becca Barton with a high game of 221 en route to a 635 series. At the Utica event, freshman Sara Catrombone bowled the top game of 288 while Barton threw the top series of 670. Barton and freshman Stephanie Hina finished 12th in doubles at the Schenectady Invitational with 1,373 pins as Catrombone finished ninth in the singles competition with 774 pins. Overall, Barton was 14th with 1,467 pins.

**Women's Basketball:** The strength of the Lady Hawks continues to be their ability to spread the scoring amongst eight players creating a dilemma for the opposition's defense. MVCC ran off two more victories this past week, 60-43 over SUNY Cobleskill and 87-51 over Hudson Valley CC, to improve its record to 19-4 overall and 15-1 in Region III of the NJCAA.

Against SUNY Cobleskill, sophomore forward Samantha



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## Hawks Athletics

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Morgan proved too powerful with 20 points and 10 rebounds while sophomore guard Sara Roseen supported the victory with 12 points and seven rebounds to go with her three steals.

The Lady Hawks were lead by sophomore point guard Shanai Norman over Hudson Valley with a career high 12 assists. She also tallied six points and battled for eight rebounds. The top gun for MVCC was freshman guard Lauren "Gracie" Plagainos with 26 points that include five three-point baskets. Sophomore forward Samantha Morgan also hit double-figures with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

**Men's Basketball:** Freshman guard Ronald Tarver led MVCC this past weekend with 24 points as the Hawks fell 86-75 to Hudson Valley CC in a Region III contest. Sophomore forward Joel Almeida also tallied 16 points.

Earlier in the week, Almeida led MVCC with 34 points in a losing effort against SUNY Cobleskill, 96-82. Freshman guard Pat Corbin added 18 points as MVCC's record falls to 10-13 overall and 8-11 in Region III.

**Ice Hockey:** Freshman forward Kevin McCready remained the Hawks' top scorer as he tallied two goals in a 5-4 overtime loss to Hudson Valley. McCready now had 27 goals and eight assists on the season as MVCC's record goes to 12-10-1. MVCC also came up short against Erie CC in a 5-2 loss over the weekend. Freshman forward Mike Steinke tallied one goal and one assist in this game. Steinke now has nine goals and 14 assists on the year.



**HAWKS FLYING HIGH** - The men's and women's basketball teams played back-to-back home games against Hudson Valley Community College on Saturday, February 9, in the Gymnasium.



## Pizza & a game

The MVCC Alumni Association was scoring points with fans on Saturday, February 9, by serving free pizza and soda in the lobby of the Gymnasium between the women's and men's basketball games.

This event was to encourage students and fans to attend Hawks athletic contests. The Alumni Association distributed 15 pizzas.

Providing help in the photo are: From left, Alumni Association Board members Charlotte Cassidy, Teddie Kowalczyk and Darlene Mack-Brown. Both MVCC teams were playing Hudson Valley Community College.

The women's team won 87-51 while the men's squad lost 86-75.

# MVCC's 2008 Trend Data Book is now available

MVCC departments at both the Utica and Rome campuses received the 14th edition of the official Spring 2008 Trend Data Book this week. Arrangements have been made to place the new 14th edition on the MVCC Intranet at <http://intranet.mvcc.edu> and at [www.mvcc.edu/acdmcs/library/faculty.cfm](http://www.mvcc.edu/acdmcs/library/faculty.cfm).

MVCC's 12th and 13th editions remain currently available at each site for internal use.

The newly revised 14th edition is loaded with in-depth narrative and graphic illustrations assessing the fall 2003 - fall 2007 trends in enrollment, admissions, academic programs, graduate, administrative/financial and personnel. A glossary section is also included now with over 60 terms and definitions.

The enrollment section is further expanded and includes even more high school information. The academic programs section is also now expanded and includes more charts.

Sam Russo wishes to extend his deep appreciation to all who have contributed to the publication's completion this year, in so many different ways:

President Randy Van Wagoner, Mark Radlowski, Toni Carbone, Eileen Dailey, Joan Andrek, George Zook, Rich Haubert, Sharon Zohne, Gerri Sultenfuss, Dr. Sandra Engel, Dr. Robert Jubenville, Kitty Dack, Jodi Marchetta, Dr. Ron Cantor, Stephanie Verostek Denise Di Giorgio, Dennis Rahn, Maria Salamida, Dennis Gibbons, Susan Halbritter, Deborah Bogan, Rich Pucine, Bill Perrotti, Norma Chrisman, Rosemary Spetka, Ellis Searles, Marie Czarnecki, Alison Doughtie, Kate Barefoot, Zyn Jackiw, Patty Fox, Nancy Geronich, Chuck Caughey, Jay Salsberg, Karen Dean, Terry

Walters, Sue Waters, Dena Dumais, Peter Rebisz, Fred Dyer, Raymond Arcuri, Franca Armstrong, Gloria Slade, Dick Suhr, Jude Toukatly, Paul Katchmar, Jason Yager, Cathy Way, Denis Kennelty, Karen Capuana, Dan Ianno, Phil Benson, Vice-President Ralph Feola, Mike Chauvin, Richard Zaklukiewicz, Tania Bader, Bev Hertline, Mike Donaruma, Dan Porcelli, Lisa Bullet, Joyce Palmer, Annette Broski, Steve Frisbee, Colleen Kehoe-Robinson, Krista Hartman, Barb Evans, Barb Granato, Celia Domser, Dr. Bob Dell, Anita Marchio, Carol Pritchard, Art Friedberg, Dr. George Gerner, Cathy Glod, Doreen Nicholls, Jeff Kimball, Jim Lynch, Marianne Buttenschon, Bev Quist, Sara Coleman, Dave Katz, Bill Zogby, Margaret Decker, Dawson McDermott, Donna Sawyer, Ibrahim Rosic, Lynn Igoe, Sara Beth Lardie, Deanna Ferro, Marie Kohl, Debbie Edick, Anne Nicholson, Dr. Bruce Neil, Linda Robinson, Kathy Kelly, Bill Hysell, Satya Tandon, Maria Ramos, Joan Achen-Brown, Pat Bennet, John Zegarelli, Mike McHarris, Mary Noti, Frank Przybycien, Bob Decker, Paul Halko, Joe Stadtmiller, Gary Broadhurst, Donna Felitto, Nancy Caputo, Sue Bice, Lorie Phillips, Julie Wells-Tsiatsos, Christine Roberts, Linda Nielsen, Don Kelly, Tom Capraro, Larry Migliori, Dr. Ron LaBuz, Dave Nackley, Jerome LaLonde, Diane Clark, Don Willner, Sharon Benedetto, Jennifer Boulanger, Mary Lourdes Summa, Melissa Wines and Shane McGovern.

Should anyone require further information, would like to offer further comments or suggestions feel free to either call, e-mail or visit Sam Russo in Room 108, Academic Building.

## Valentine's Day Fun



The Kiddie Campus Child Care Center held a Valentine's Sweethearts Dance on Thursday with all the children having loads of fun dancing, singing and cheering. Left - Makhi Walls falls under the spell of Olivia McArthur's gaze while encouraging her to hit the floor for a dance. Above - Milana Grigoryan and Diamonte Giacobelli do the twist while enjoying a laugh together. Right - Jessica Clyne cannot contain her joy of all the excitement.

# Board of Trustees minutes from February 11 meeting

The MVCC Board of Trustees met Monday, February 11, 2008, 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 4:04 p.m. with minutes from the January 14, 2008, meeting being unanimously approved.

## Reports

### Chairperson's Report

– Mrs. Sheila Vandever announced the Board of Trustees will meet in March with representatives from Middle States. She also announced that the College's ACCESS Fund now had 100 percent participation from the Board members.

### Student Trustee's Report

- Camilla Ramos discussed how the Student Congress is working to raise awareness among the student body of the importance of this year's presidential elections. They are also targeting freshmen to become more involved with the Student Congress.

**Committee Report** – Vice-Chair William S. Calli, Jr. announced that approval of the Employee Handbook and passing of the Board Budget.

**Treasurer's Report** - Ralph Feola, Vice President for Administration, informed the Board that the College is complying with the NYS Attorney General's Office in an investigation involving the sale of electronic chips to SUNY colleges. He announced that annual fire inspection of all campus facilities. A deal is in the process for the City of Utica to tear down two of the temporary classrooms located behind the Information Technology Building.

**President's Report** – President Randall VanWagoner acknowledged a letter from William Lewis, Department Head for Business Information Technology, giving his intent to retire at the end of the Spring Semester.

Dr. VanWagoner informed the Board the Hospitality Department is finalizing its portion of the Rome Campus Commission Report which the Board of Trustees will be able to review on March 31.

At the Community College Presidents meeting in Albany, it was announced plans for restoring aid to community colleges (the proposed cut of \$50 per FTE) and a goal of adding \$200 per FTE in the future. It was also discussed adding nearly \$5.4 million for as retirement incentives. The third item of interest was a provision of \$1 million for the five smallest community colleges in NYS.

Dr. VanWagoner has invited the Oneida County Legislature to the MVCC campus and has been working on tying up loose ends dealing with the ideas of a college football team. The county has also approved funding in the upcoming budget for the proposed MVCC field house.

The MVCC Foundation Golf Outing will be held on Monday, June 23, at the Yahnundasis Golf Club. Also, the firm of Scalzo, Zogby & Wittig will host a reception for Dr. VanWagoner on March 6, at 5:30 p.m., at the Fort Schuyler Club.

**Vice Presidents' Report** – Dr. Sandra Engel, Acting Vice President of Instruction, reported the college's Cyber Security program has received SUNY approval; the Spring Semester is running 426 sections; MVCC Theater Program and Drama Club Production is putting on the place of "Dracula" in the theatre on Thursday, February 28; Friday, February 29; and Saturday, March 1; with 8:00 p.m. performances. There will also be a 10:00 a.m. matinee on Friday; Dr. Engel took part in a seminar in Vietnam on raising the number of students getting an education in the United States. Vietnam ranks four among the number of foreign students attending community colleges in the U.S.

Denise DiGiorgio, Vice President of Student Services, announced a recruitment program in conjunction with Oneida County; the Admission Office will host an event to bring high school guidance counselors to the Utica Campus; as of January, 600 acceptance letters were sent out; nearly 100 potential student-athletes attended last week's Athletics Open House.

**Program Update and Discussion** – Joan Andrek introduced principals from Berkshire Marketing Group, a full service marketing company who had successfully responded to an RFP to conduct focus group research for MVCC. In attendance were Darrell Berman, president and CEO; Christine Collazo, Senior Vice President; and Dr. David Kiner, chief researcher, who presented the focus group data and general findings to the Board.

Dr. Kiner reviewed the key themes that emerged from the focus group respondents, which were the regional economy, perceptions of employment opportunities, higher education, and the value of a college degree for their future. He also reviewed the results of focus groups that were conducted with leaders from local business and industry and noted that there are many opportunities for MVCC to build stronger partnerships with area business. He concluded his report with a summary of recommendations for the college, which included improvements to advising, career placement and business partnerships.

**Accreditation Update** – Norayne Rosero presented an overview where the College stands on the Middle States Self-Study Report. She pointed out some of the strengths of the college has a comprehensive assessment process, offers an Institutional Effectiveness website, Office of Institutional Assessment that tracks college data, the college's Institutional Effectiveness Committee's commitment of moving MVCC forward.

Some of the challenges include not meeting SUNY dead-



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lines on assessment projects, college fails to complete many assessments, and a "culture of assessment" needs to occur.

### **New Business**

7a – Minutes of January 14, 2008 Board of Trustees Meeting.

7b – Treasurer's Report.

7c – Adjunct Faculty – Jason Carpenter, Dawn Hamlin, Jana Harrison, Allen Light, John A. Panzone, Michelle Roche-Babbie, Thomas Roman, Charles L. Skinner, Marianne Stalteri.

7d – Sabbatical leave approved, Fall 2008, Christi Harrington, Assistant Professor, Art Department.

7e – Career Appointments effective September 1, 2008 – Norma Chrisman, Information Technology; Paul Graziadei, Marketing and Communications; Terry Kiper-Szatko, Child Care Center; James Myers, Business Office; Daniel Porcelli, Business Office; Theresa Paladino, Financial Aid; John Whittenmyer, Information Technology; Michael Diederich, Humanities.

7f – Continuing Appointments effective September 1, 2008 – Diana Ayers-Darling, Social Sciences; Jedediah Kimball, Art; Robert Musante, Humanities; Julie Wells-Tsiatos, Health Services.

7g – Theresa Fournier, Instructor, Social Sciences.

7h – Professional Development for Trustees

7i – Business/Industry Partnership Award, NYCCT

7j – Amend College Staffing Plan – Delete, Programmer position; Create, Assistant to the Director of Athletics position.



**HANDS ON** - Instructor Robert Dukett explains the dashboard to student Steve Fox.

## **Professional truck driver training program in Rome**

The MVCC driver-training program provides students with the ideal mix of classroom and "hands on" training. The program is based upon a curriculum developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and approved by PTDI, the Professional Truck Driving Institute. The MVCC program, offered by Sage Technical Services, invites both men and women to apply. Classes are offered days and evenings, continuously throughout the year. Courses can be completed in 3 ½ to 5 weeks for truck driving (Class B), and/or tractor trailer driving (Class A).

With demand for truck drivers at an all-time high, trucking firms and other commercial carriers are offering new drivers higher mileage pay rates and better benefit packages. A first year income of over \$40,000 for a tractor trailer driver is typical. Highly motivated drivers can earn even more!

The U.S. Bureau of Labor lists truck drivers as one of the top job categories of the new millennium. The bureau estimates the industry will need 56,000 new drivers annually until the year 2010. No need to move as students can take advantage of national opportunities. Financial assistance or student loans may be available.



**CLASSROOM WORK** - Instructor Bob Bankit discusses importance of brake pad inspection to his students.



## **Reception with International flavor**

The annual International Student Reception was held Wednesday, February 6, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the first floor lobby of Payne Hall.

MVCC hosts many foreign students from such countries as Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Egypt, England, France, Gambia, India, Japan, Korea, Moldova, Nigeria, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Togo, Ukraine, Vietnam and Yemen.

MVCC has 63 registered International Students this Spring.

The International Festival will be held March 26, 12:00-2:00 p.m.