

# Communitas



MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

January 14, 2008

## Please support the ACCESS fund...

Each year the MVCC Foundation asks the faculty and staff of the college to support its efforts on behalf of MVCC and our students. For more than 20 years, the college has looked to the Foundation and its generous donors to support our students with scholarships and fund new initiatives and equipment on campus. This year, the MVCC Foundation has unveiled an exciting new initiative, the ACCESS Fund.

MVCC has a long-standing commitment to both community and opportunity. Our students come from all walks of life and all socio-economic backgrounds, but they have one thing in common - the desire for an education.

For too many of our community's students, college seems far beyond their financial reach. Though they are academically qualified, many talented students in our area do not attend college because they believe they cannot afford the tuition. State and federal financial aid programs offer support to the most needy students, but there are many more students for whom financial aid does not meet the need - tuition, fees, books, and transportation are all just part of the

'ACCESS Fund' Continued on Page 2

## Frank Pastizzo invited to kick-off Spring Semester

MVCC will welcome nationally renowned speaker Frank Pastizzo to the Utica Campus to kick off the Spring Semester for faculty and staff. Through his company, Warm Up The Workplace, Inc., Pastizzo has been presenting workshops throughout the country on the benefits of creating and maintaining friendly and productive work environments. Pastizzo utilizes comedy, theater, music, and storytelling to enhance his message.



Pastizzo

Pastizzo's presentations at MVCC grew out of a recommendation from the College's Staff Development Committee to host an expert like Pastizzo to help foster and further strengthen workplace unity.

In order for everyone to have an opportunity to hear this dynamic presentation, there will be two sessions held in the College Theatre.

This will allow offices and departments to maintain ade-



**EASY WAY TO GIVE** - President Randall J. VanWagoner fills out a payroll deduction form for the College's ACCESS Fund while MVCC Foundation President Dana Jerrard looks on.

quate staffing while employees attend the sessions.

### The sessions will be:

Wednesday, January 16th - 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 17th - 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Dr. VanWagoner will open both sessions with his remarks and a College update prior to introducing Mr. Pastizzo.

Some of the topics Pastizzo will cover include a spirit of service to others and diversity along with insights on creating a positive and engaging workplace. His programs are tailored to helping individuals and work teams appreciate each other's skills and points of view, promoting cooperation and productivity. The outcome is more tolerant, supportive, goal-oriented organizations and environments.

Attendance is expected for all full-time faculty and staff, so each office and department should coordinate office coverage and attendance for each session. We look forward to seeing you at one of the sessions to get the spring semester off to a great start!

## ACCESS Fund Continued from Page 1

cost of college – and the pressure of financing an education weighs too heavily on too many students.

That's why the Foundation has created the ACCESS Fund, a statement to the citizens of the Mohawk Valley that those who come from working families can come to MVCC for an outstanding education. The ACCESS Fund is an example of what we hold dear as a public institution - educational opportunities for everyone, regardless of their economic status. It is our way of ensuring that MVCC remains broadly accessible to all who live in our community.

More than 40 percent of MVCC students come from families who earn more than \$35,000 – which prevents them from qualifying for the maximum amount of tuition assistance from the NY State Tuition Assistance Program. For these students whose family income exceeds the limits for maximum TAP awards, MVCC will contribute \$250 or \$500, depending upon identified need, toward tuition and fees.

For students whose family income exceeds the national poverty threshold, but qualify for the maximum amount available from federal and state tuition assistance programs, additional scholarship assistance from The ACCESS Fund will be made available for books, transportation, and other school related expenses.

### Who Qualifies for The ACCESS Fund?

To be eligible for The ACCESS Fund, a student must:

- Be a New York State Resident
- Be eligible for the federal Pell Grant Program or the state Tuition Assistance Program
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the annual deadline
- Enroll full time.
- Be pursuing a degree or certificate
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress while at MVCC (defined as a GPA of 2.5 or better; minimum of 18 credits per year)
- Reapply each year they are enrolled at MVCC

Please consider a gift to the ACCESS fund through payroll deduction. You will be receiving a letter soon at your home that will provide more detailed information on the ACCESS fund. Gifts in any and all amounts are gratefully accepted. For more information, please contact Sarah Beth Lardie, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, at extension 5526. Thank you!

### Volunteers needed for info booth

Volunteers are still needed for the College Information Booth for the start of the Spring Semester. The booth is located in the Utica Campus' Academic Building and will be open on Tuesday, January 22; and Wednesday, January 23; to help students find their way.

Volunteers are needed from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. for both days.

To volunteer, contact Maria Salamida at [msalamida@mvcc.edu](mailto:msalamida@mvcc.edu).

## MVCC Campus Events

### Tuesday, December 15

Advisement Placement Testing, Rome's PC 252, 9:00 a.m.

### Wednesday, January 16

Early Bird Orientation, ACC 116, 10:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Frank Pastizzo, Theatre, 1:30 p.m.

Yoga, ACC 116, 5:00 p.m.

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

### Thursday, January 17

Guest Speaker: Frank Pastizzo, Theatre, 8:30 a.m.

Adjunct Design Team, PH 391, 10:00 a.m.

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

### Friday, January 18

New Employee Orientation, IT 225, 8:00 a.m.

Professional Association Luncheon, ACC 116, 11:00 a.m.

Police Academy Graduation, Theatre, 5:30 p.m.

### Saturday, January 19

Drinking Driver Program, PC 207, 8:00 a.m.

Resident Life Orientation for Parents, IT 225, 1:00 p.m.

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

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

Resident Life Orientation, IT 225-Theatre, 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, January 20

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

Performance: Magician, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

### Still room in the College Library workshops

With the start of a new semester, there is still room in the three workshops the College Library is offering in order to aid faculty and staff in utilizing research materials. These workshops will be held in the Utica Campus Library computer lab, located on the second floor of Payne Hall.

#### The three two-hour workshops are:

- "What's New in Databases," Thursday, January 17, 1:00 p.m. – Learn the latest developments in the College's online databases such as new features, databases, and trial databases.

- "Web 2.0/Library 2.0," Friday, January 18, 10:00 a.m. – Discover how the latest developments in the Internet will affect the library. Participants will create a [del.icio.us](http://del.icio.us) (social book marking) and Good Reads (social book listing) accounts.

- "The Hidden Internet," Friday, January 18, 1:00 a.m. – Understand how to "mine" the Internet for data that search engines like Google can't get to.

To register, contact Krista Hartman at [khartman@mvcc.edu](mailto:khartman@mvcc.edu) or by calling extension 5339. Walk-ins will be welcome as long as there are available places.

To submit information  
for **Communitas**,  
e-mail **Rich Haubert** @  
[rhaubert@mvcc.edu](mailto:rhaubert@mvcc.edu)

# New telephone system training

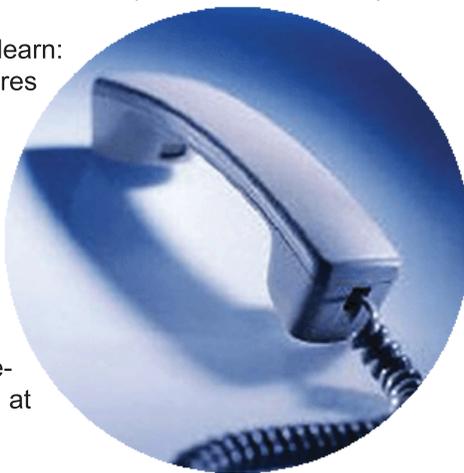
With the assistance of Ronco C&E Information Technology, the College is in the process of implementing a new telephone system throughout the Rome and Utica campuses.

In an effort to make this transition as smooth as possible, the College will offer "Telephone and Voice Mail Training" prior to the scheduled "Go Live" date of February 4. The training classes (15 seats per class) will be conducted by Ronco personnel.

During training College personnel will learn:

- Basic telephone and voice mail features
- Conference calls
- Transfer calls
- Recording your voice mail greeting
- Creating a voice mail password
- What to expect before, during and after the phone conversion
- How to get Help following the implementation

Please review the schedule below to reserve a seat by contacting Karen Dean at extension 5468 or by email at [kdean@mvcc.edu](mailto:kdean@mvcc.edu)



# Youth swimming lessons at MVCC

For anyone with children or teenagers at home, the College's Center for Community and Economic Development is offering swimming lessons this winter.

Lessons will be given in the MVCC pool on the Utica Campus.

There will be lessons on Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. from February 2 through April 26, as well as on Mondays (February 4-April 28), Tuesdays (February 5-April 29) and Wednesdays (February 6-April 30) between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Lessons for Preschool Aquatics, Level 1 and Level 2 swimmers will be 30 minutes while lessons for Level 3 through Advanced are 60 minutes. A child's skill level will be up to the instructors' discretion.

• **Preschool Aquatics:** (10 classes/5 hours) \$50 - Specifically for preschoolers ages 2-5.

• **Level 1:** (10 classes/5 hours) \$50 - Students are oriented to the water while they learn elementary skills.

• **Level 2:** (10 classes/5 hours) \$50 - Students work on unsupported front and back floats, rhythmic breathing and flutter kicking.

• **Level 3:** (10 classes/10 hours) \$65 - Students work on coordinating front and back crawl, introduction to elementary backstroke and treading water.

• **Level 4:** (10 classes/10 hours) \$65 - This level includes deep-water bobbing, rotary breathing, endurance of strokes already learned, plus introduction of breast stroke, side stroke, and turning at the wall.

• **Level 5:** (10 classes/10 hours) \$65 - Students refine strokes already learned and are introduced to feet-first surface dives and diving.

• **Level 6:** (10 classes/10 hours) \$65 - This level offers water safety techniques used to prevent and save oneself from an aquatic emergency.

• **Advanced Swimming:** (10 classes/10 hours) \$65 - This new course allows for reviewing and perfecting all strokes and skills in the American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim Program.

To enroll, call 792-5300, between 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

## UTICA TRAINING

**Session A – IT225**

**Session B – IT218**

### January 28th, 2008 (Monday)

10:00 a.m. – Noon	BOOKED
Noon – 2:00 p.m.	11 SEATS
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	14 SEATS

### January 29th, 2008 (Tuesday – Session A)

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	12 SEATS
10:00 a.m. – Noon	BOOKED
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	BOOKED
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	15 SEATS
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	15 SEATS

### January 29th, 2008 (Tuesday – Session B)

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	15 SEATS
10:00 a.m. – Noon	3 SEATS
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	7 SEATS
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	15 SEATS
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	15 SEATS

### January 30th, 2008 (Wednesday)

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	5 SEATS
10:00 a.m. – Noon	2 SEATS
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	BOOKED
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	14 SEATS
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	14 SEATS

### January 31st, 2008 (Thursday)

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	
10:00 a.m. – Noon	BOOKED
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	6 SEATS

### February 1st, 2008 (Friday – Session A)

10:00 a.m. – Noon	BOOKED
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	4 SEATS

### February 1st, 2008 (Friday – Session B)

10:00 a.m. – Noon	10 SEATS
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	15 SEATS

## ROME TRAINING

### January 30th, 2008 (Wednesday)

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	10 SEATS
10:00 a.m. – Noon	6 SEATS
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	5 SEATS
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	12 SEATS
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	11 SEATS

### January 31st, 2008 (Thursday)

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	15 SEATS
10:00 a.m. – Noon	14 SEATS
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	15 SEATS
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	9 SEATS

# Board of Trustees minutes from January 14 meeting

The MVCC Board of Trustees met Monday, January 14, 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 4:00 p.m. with minutes from the December 17, 2007, meeting being unanimously approved. President VanWagoner opened the meeting by thanking everyone who attended the funeral of Angelo Carbone, husband of Toni Carbone.

## Reports

**Millennium Report** - Mr. Mathis discussed the need for better communication with the Utica School Board when dealing with the Millennium Project.

**Rome Campus Commission Report** – Mr. Austin discussed how the panel is looking at the Hospitality Program’s probable modification in culinary arts. He expects to bring the full report to the Board by April.

**President’ Report** – President VanWagoner announced the gratitude from the Donovan family (publisher of the Observer-Dispatch) to the Board for flowers in the wake of a family death.

Dr. VanWagoner talked about preliminary enrollment numbers for the fall being up slightly and how the spring enrollment figures were also looking well.

**Vice Presidents’ Report** – Ralph Feola, Vice President for Administration, reported the construction of new office space in the Academic Building on the Utica Campus is nearing completion. Some of the programs taking advantage of this new office space include Upward Bound, STEP, and the college bridge program. He also announced the gymnasium floor was refinished.

He also explained some of the preliminary results of the Emergency Alert System testing of the siren and that he is continuing to collect feedback from staff and faculty who were on campus during the test.

Dr. Sandra Engel, Acting Vice President of Instruction, reported that 12 sections of Intersession classes have finished up. She also held a department head meeting with Dr. VanWagoner to give a mid-year update on where the college’s academic programs are currently.

She reported the new Distance Learning Director James Lynch is now on campus, along with announcing that new Cultural Series booklet is now available.

Denise DiGiorgio, Vice President of Student Services, announced that MVCC’s athletic programs have a winning percentage of 72.6 percent with a record of 119-45-2 for last year. She also pointed out that the College’s website’s “Ask-MVCC” link received over 5,000 questions since January 2005.

Also, the College’s Spring Job Fair will be held April 8 and all immunization records are now up to date.

**Program Update and Discussion** – Director of Informa-

tion Technology Paul Katchmar announced that the College’s new telephone system will be launched February 4. Over the next two weeks, 565 telephones will be installed throughout the Utica and Rome Campuses. Training sessions have been schedule in order to train all college personnel in the use of the new telephone system. Once the system is up and running it will become part of the College’s Emergency Alert System, but he pointed out that there will be 202 classrooms and labs lacking telephones.

**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 as being faculty involvement in course development, faculty and staff already addressing the college’s challenges, the college’s presences in the region it services, and the levels of professional development.

Some of the challenges include no formal mentoring program, no clear criteria for committees, more confidentiality on employees records, and resources to keep distance learning on the cutting edge.

## New Business

7a – Minutes of December 17, 2007 Board of Trustees Meeting.

7b – Treasurer’s Report.

7c – Adjunct Faculty – Robert Woodrow, Carla Zupancic.

7d – Jamie Cuda, Instructor, Allied Health

7e – Maria Roche-Dean, Instructor, Health Services Department

7f – Kevin Holochwost, Instructor, Engineering, Computer and Physical Sciences Department

7g – Authorization to fill position – Upward Bound Tutor/Mentor

7h – Amend College Staffing Plan

7i – Steven Yaworski, Upward Bound Tutor/Mentor.



## DID YOU KNOW?

That MVCC through CCED offers business classes at DFAS four nights per week?

OR

That CCED offers basic and advanced Calligraphy Courses?