



## Middle States Commission completes visit

After more than two years' work and preparation, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education's (MSCHE) visit has finally come and gone, with the College receiving a favorable review on the 14 standards put forth in the 2008 Self Study.



Dr. Bounds

On Wednesday in the College Theatre, Dr. Stuart Bounds, President of Chesapeake College in Maryland and chairman for the MSCHE read the preliminary findings which will be drafted into the College's re-accreditation report. This report is slated to be completed and submitted to the Middle States by June. The MSCHE's preliminary report found MVCC met the standards from the self study, and in certain areas surpassed expectations.

In his opening remarks, President Randall VanWagoner joked that going through a Middle States assessment "is like chicken soup and may actually be good for you." He acknowledged the hard work and long hours of those people who made the MSCHE visit a success.

Dr. Bounds opened his presentation by complementing MVCC for its integrity on both campuses. "Every interface with personnel at your institution was forthcoming with the College's strengths and weaknesses," said Dr. Bounds.

Three areas of the College which received exceptional reviews were the library, the MVCC Foundation, and the "revived leadership" under a new president. The library was commended on providing services on both campuses,



**MIDDLE STATES EXIT PRESENTATION** - Dr. Stuart Bounds reads the preliminary report from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education while the rest of the members look on. In the audience were members of the College's faculty, staff and administration.

as well as on the Internet, along with offering materials that surpass requirements. The Foundation was commended for its fund raising efforts, leading to a growth and strengthening of the College's endowment. The MSCHE pointed out the atmosphere throughout the College remains abuzz with excitement and optimism since Dr. VanWagoner took the post of president.

"The energy on campus left me with the sense of excitement and wanting by the College's personnel to get involved in making this a better institution. I am left with the feeling that you're willing to do whatever it takes to capture the future," said Dr. Bounds.

While the preliminary findings demonstrated the College's commitment to higher education, there were many suggestions from the MSCHE where the College can make improvements.

Areas where improvements can be made include periodic assessment of the effective of the College's budget plan, review of Board of Trustees policies, revisit academic leadership, con-

sider ways to inform faculty and staff of the importance of annual assessments, improving access to advisement for students, better informing students of the strategy of two-tier education and transfer opportunities, among several other areas.

These suggestions will be defined in more detail when the final report is released.

### Self Study Standards

- Standard 1:** Mission and Goals
- Standard 2:** Planning, Resource Allocation, and Institutional Renewal
- Standard 3:** Institutional Resources
- Standard 4:** Leadership & Governance
- Standard 5:** Administration
- Standard 6:** Integrity
- Standard 7:** Institutional Assessment
- Standard 8:** Student Admissions & Retention
- Standard 9:** Student Support Services
- Standard 10:** Faculty
- Standard 11:** Educational Offerings
- Standard 12:** General Education
- Standard 13:** Related Educational Activities
- Standard 14:** Assessment of Student Learning

## Workshops attract over 30 guidance counselors to campus

The College hosted over 30 guidance counselors from 12 area high schools and two BOCES during Guidance Counselor Information Workshops on Thursday, March 20, in the Information Technology Building.

These workshops were designed to inform guidance counselors of the many services offered at MVCC and covered topics such as disability services, placement testing, high school programs, Rome Campus' special programs and affiliations, financial aid and MVCC scholarship, Learning Center, transfer and career counseling.

Following an opening address from Dr. Randall VanWagoner, counselors were able to meet with representatives from every academic department.

During a luncheon, the guidance counselors took part in a panel discussion with three current MVCC students, who provided insight into the application process along with reasons they chose MVCC.

"According to the counselors, we received a lot of positive feedback as to how informative this event was," said Daniel



**TEACHING WHAT MVCC HAS TO OFFER** - Michael Badolato, Enrollment Management Specialist and Student Services Counselor on the Rome Campus, discusses many of the services the College offers during a workshop for high school guidance counselors.

Ianno, MVCC Admissions Counselor. "This is something we are looking forward to doing on a bi-annual frequency. Right now we're looking at November."

## International Festival at MVCC

The 2008 International Festival was a big success this year, according to organizers with record number of exhibits, lectures and displays along with a crowd of students, faculty and staff filling the Information Technology Building.

"There was outstanding attendance and wonderful student participation," said Humanities Professor Dr. Carolyn West Pace, who was one of the organizers. She said this year's festival featured over 20 exhibits and more than 50 cultures were represented.



Arcuri

This is the third year for the festival, which was held Wednesday, March 26. There were a variety of lectures and activities on international themes, including a discussion by U.S. Congressman Michael Arcuri who shared his views on his recent trips to Iraq, Afghanistan, and North Africa.

Some of the events included a Samuri Iaido (Sword) Demonstration by Headmaster Clifford Crandall Jr.; a lecture on Oneida Nation Culture and History by Kandice Watson, Director of Education and Cultural Outreach; a lecture on Kenya by Paul Anyango; and Dance Performances by the Black Student Union and the Caribbean Club.

Maimun Khan for the Counseling Center presented the SUNY Diversity Honors Scholarship Awards. Booths will include Skako:wi Cultural Center, Peace Corps, Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, International Student Club, Black Student Union, Caribbean Club, and the Latino Student Union.



**SWINGING** - Alison Doughtie and David Katz perform a Latin-based dance during the International Festival.

## 'Alumni Art Exhibit' opens April 14

MVCC's annual "Alumni Art Exhibit" will go on display Monday, April 14, in the Inner Quad Gallery on the second floor of the Academic Building on the Utica Campus.

An opening reception will be held on April 14 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, compliments of the MVCC Alumni Association.

The Show will feature the talented work of recent MVCC Alumni from the Graphic Design and Illustration curriculums as well as former Advertising Design and Production graduates from years past. Many of MVCC's Art Alumni live and work throughout the country and abroad, and submit their work for display in this annual event.

Cash prizes are awarded within both categories of Graphic Design and Illustration. The Show, which is sponsored by the MVCC Alumni Association and the Department of Art, will run through MVCC's 2008 Commencement on May 16.





## MVCC Campus Events

### Friday, April 4

Financial Aid Awareness Day, PH Lobby, 9:00 a.m.  
Student Congress, ACC 212, 3:00 p.m.  
Drama Club Rehearsal, Theatre, 4:00 p.m.

### Saturday, April 5

CCED Class, ACC 116, 9:00 a.m.  
Children Fair, Gymnasium, 10:00 a.m.  
Ballroom Dancing, PC Atrium, 10:00 a.m.  
Performance: Open Hand Theater presents -  
In Search of Baba Yaga, PC Auditorium, 12:00 p.m.  
Softball at Columbia-Greene CC, 1:00 p.m.  
Baseball at Hudson Valley CC, 1:00 p.m.  
Lacrosse at Genesee CC, 1:00 p.m.  
Drama Club Rehearsal, Theatre, 4:00 p.m.

### Sunday, April 6

Lacrosse hosts Dean College, 1:00 p.m.

### Monday, April 7

Blood Drive Registration, AB Lobby, 8:00 a.m.  
College Teach-In, Theatre, 8:00 a.m.  
Softball at Jefferson CC, 3:00 p.m.  
Chess Club, ACC 114, 3:30 p.m.  
Tennis at SUNY Cobleskill, 4:00 p.m.  
Yoga, ACC 116, 5:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, April 8

Blood Drive Registration, AB Lobby, 8:00 a.m.  
Wellness Day, PC Atrium, 10:00 a.m.  
Comedian, MV Commons, 12:00 p.m.  
LSU "Drum Set", MV Commons, 1:00 p.m.  
Baseball hosts Monroe CC, 2:00 p.m.  
Lacrosse at Herkimer CCC, 3:00 p.m.  
Relay for Life, IT 225, 5:30 p.m.  
Lecture: The Oneida Indian Nation - "Partners in Peace,  
Allies in War," PC Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.  
Acoustic Café feature Justin Smithson, ACC 116, 7:00 p.m.  
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 9

Mayor's "State of the City Address," Theatre, 8:30 a.m.  
Brown Bag Luncheon Series: Finals & Test Anxiety,  
ACC 116, 12:00 p.m.  
Baseball hosts Herkimer CCC, 2:00 p.m.  
Tennis at Herkimer CCC, 4:00 p.m.  
MVCC Band Concert Practice, ACC 116, 7:00 p.m.  
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

### Thursday, April 10

Poetry Reading: Linton Kwesi Johnson, Reggae Poet,  
Theatre, 2:00 p.m.  
Softball hosts Herkimer CCC, 3:00 p.m.  
Lacrosse at Tompkins-Cortland CC, 3:00 p.m.  
Attorney General Andrew Cuomo Forum, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.  
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

### Friday, April 11

Golf hosts MVCC Invitational, 1:00 p.m.  
Student Congress, ACC 212, 3:00 p.m.  
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.



**COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHS** - MVCC and the Professional Association presented Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente, center, with new framed photographs of the College's Utica and Rome campuses to be displayed in his office in the Oneida County Office Building. Presenting the photographs for the College were William Perrotti, Professor of Life Science and College Senate Chairman, along with College President Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner.

## GAT Club raises funds through t-shirt sale

The Graphic Arts and Technology Club were selling t-shirts in the lobby of the Academic Building on the Utica Campus on Wednesday, March 26, in an effort to raise money and awareness for the group.

The Graphic Arts and Technology Club is a newly formed club which was approved by the Student Congress this semester with Duane Isenberg and David Nackley as faculty advisors. T-shirts were sold for \$8 with plans for the money raised to help fund field trips for the club.



**ART IN MOTION** - Members of the Graphic Arts and Technology Club screen print shirts in the lobby of the Academic Building in an effort to promote the club. From left are, Rachel Castro, Justin Phillips, GAT Club President Brandon Wean, Dan Tirado, and Max Feller.

# Dr. Randall Kennedy brings racial issue to center stage

Renowned law scholar and best-seller author Dr. Randall Kennedy sparked dialog within the College community this week with his lecture on the perception of racial betrayal that exists within black society.

Dr. Kennedy spoke to students, faculty and staff about his new book, "Sellout – The Politics of Racial Betrayal" during an afternoon session on Tuesday, April 1. In his book, he deals with what it means to be black in America and describes how individual black persons have stymied movements within the black community for freedoms by informing authorities. Dr. Kennedy fielded questions from the audience which enabled him to delve deeper into past and current racial tensions and issues.

Dr. Kennedy was the focal point of a panel discussion which took place that evening in the College Theatre. The panel consisted of community leaders as well as scholars

from local colleges. They were Phil Benson from MVCC, Patrick Johnson from the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley, Dr. Kris Paap from SUNY IT, and Alane Varga from Utica College.

During the panel forum, the Harvard Law scholar addressed the stigma of racial discourse in black society where if a black person becomes successful and doesn't turnaround to support their roots, they are viewed as a "sellout."

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was singled out



**SPEAKER ON RACIAL BETRAYAL** - MVCC's Morris Pearson shares a laugh with Dr. Randall Kennedy during a reception prior to a panel discussion in the College Theatre on Tuesday, April 1.

as the most perfect embodiment of a "sellout," due to his stand against affirmative action. Others who, in Dr. Kennedy's viewpoint have been unfairly labeled "sellouts," include Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, and Barack Obama.

Dr. Kennedy's visit to MVCC was sponsored by the Black Student Union and MVCC Foundation.

Dr. Kennedy is a graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School, as well as a Rhodes Scholar. He served as a clerk to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, and was awarded the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award for Race, Crime and the Law. He writes for a wide range of scholarly and general interest publications, and sits on the editorial boards of *The Nation*, *Dissent*, and *The American Prospect*.



## Forum addresses 'Violence in American Society'

The College's Social Sciences Department will host a panel discussion on the topic of "Violence in American Society." This discussion will be held Monday, April 7, at 9:00 a.m. in the College's Theatre.

This event is open to the public with faculty, staff and students encouraged to attend.

Taking part in this panel discussion from MVCC's Social Sciences Department are Associate Professor David Katz, Assistant Professor William Zogby and Professor Beverly Quest. The panel's fourth member will be Assistant Professor Robert Christman from the Psychology, Human Services and Education Department.

**To submit information  
for *Communitas*,  
e-mail Rich Haubert,  
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"Slight misunderstandings sometimes occur between us, and yet they only serve to strengthen our friendship."



*Ludwig Von Beethoven (1770-1827)  
Composer and Virtuoso Pianist*

Submitted by Ron Cantor,  
Dean of the MVCC Rome Campus