

# Communitas



MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

May 12, 2008

## D'Amore remembered at Rome Campus tree planting

MVCC staff, faculty and administrators were joined by members of the D'Amore family, City of Rome and state officials to pay tribute to former Adjunct Instructor Stephen A. D'Amore Jr. during a tree planting ceremony and announcement of a scholarship fund in his name on the Rome Campus on Wednesday, May 7.

Mr. D'Amore, 56, was a history and political science Adjunct Instructor on the Rome Campus from January 2006 until his death in August 2007. Prior to joining the MVCC family, Mr. D'Amore taught history and Spanish at Whitesboro Senior High School until his retirement.

"Steve represented our faculty's commitment to bettering the students and our communities," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner. "For his students, he was able to connect the community to the classroom."

Mr. D'Amore provided his students with a better understanding of the political system by inviting speakers like former Congressman Sherwood Boehlert, City of Rome Mayor James Brown, and New York State Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito to come into the classroom.

"Steve cared about kids because he knew they were our future," said Mayor Brown. "He understood what an individual



**HONORING INSTRUCTOR IN ROME** - MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, left, is joined by Robert Blockston, City of Rome Mayor James Brown and Pamela Landau during a planting ceremony in honor of the late Stephen D'Amore. All four represented the values of Mr. D'Amore, education, community, government and family.

is suppose to do with their life and that is to make life better for our children."

Along with the planting of a Red Oak, Mr. D'Amore's sister, Pamela Landau, presented the Rome Campus with a Revolutionary War painting from Mr. D'Amore's collection, which will be hung in the Plumley Complex's conference room. Mrs. Landau also announced the creation of a new scholarship fund in Stephen D'Amore's name.

## Come join the fun at the 'Mardi Gras After-Hours Party'

Staff Development, with contributions from the Professional Association, AMVA unions and MVCC Foundation, will sponsor an MVCC employee "Mardi Gras After-Hours Party" on Tuesday, May 20, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in Room 116 of the Alumni College Center on the Utica Campus.

This event is open to all full-time and part-time college faculty and staff. There will be music, food, beverages and door prizes.

The cost is \$5.00 per person and tickets can be purchased at the door. Advanced tickets can be bought by contacting Deanna Ferro at ext. 5797 or by visiting her office, Room 378 in Payne Hall.



## Frisbee named Chair of SUNY Library Directors Organization

Stephen Frisbee, Director of College Libraries, was recently elected Chair of the SUNY Council of Library Directors, an organization composed of the top library administrators for all campuses of the SUNY system.

Mr. Frisbee has spent the past year as Vice-Chair of the Council, with responsibility for planning the annual meeting which was held in April. The Council's mission is to provide vision, leadership, and advocacy for SUNY libraries to ensure highest quality services to students, faculty, researchers, and staff in support of the intellectual and economic development of New York State.



Frisbee

# ET&T receives new plotter printer

The Engineering Technologies and the Trades Department upgraded its technology with the addition of a new plotter printer this past semester.

Funded through a Perkins IV grant from the New York State Education Department, the college purchased a new Hewlett Packard DesignJet T1100ps which is able to make color printouts of surveying diagrams, aero photographs and much more.

"This is top of the line technology which allows the students to see what they will be working with in a real world application," said Assistant Professor Brian Judycki of the ET&T Department. "We have always had the hardware and software, but never had the ability for output."

The ET&T Department had been working with an older version of plotter printer which only printed black.

This new plotter printer is a large format that prints images up to 44 inches wide using a configuration of six individual ink tanks. This printer uses thermal bonding ink which means the images won't smear.

"The former printer the surveying classes had was black and white which limited what the students were able to do," said Mr. Judycki. "This color printer enables the students to illustrate the different features of their surveying maps such as contour."

This equipment is able to print on coated paper, heavy-weight coated paper, semi-gloss photo paper, glossy photo paper, translucent paper, vellum paper, matte photo paper, polyester film, bond paper, self-adhesive vinyl, satin photo



**LEADING EDGE TECHNOLOGY** - Surveying student Kendall Lemon waits for his work to come out of the new plotter printer which the Engineering Technologies and the Trades Department purchased in December.

paper and backlit paper.

The plotter printer will be used in the college's survey program, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), civil engineering and Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) which prepares individuals to work as engineers in the technical drawing area.

## MYCC Faces: Susan D. Smith

The Rome Campus remains a hub for classes and programs run by the Center for Community and Economic Development and overseeing much of the work is Susan D. Smith.

Mrs. Smith is the Program Specialist for CCED on the Rome Campus. As Program Specialist, Mrs. Smith coordinates both non-credit and professional education CCED programming carried out on the Rome Campus and also handles logistics for specific programs offered in both the Rome and Utica campuses.

She is also responsible for oversight of the Pharmacy Technician program. Some of the non-credit courses include languages, cooking, computers, Notary Public training and Boating/Jet ski training.

"I'd like to develop new course offerings of interest to residents of Rome and Utica and I'd like to attract new instructors willing to share their knowledge and expertise with those who consider themselves 'lifelong learners,'" said Mrs. Smith. "I welcome faculty/staff/students and community members to contact me with ideas and suggestions about



**Susan D. Smith**  
**Program Specialist for CCED**

non-credit and/or professional education courses they'd like to see offered through CCED."

Along with being with CCED since the middle of April, Mrs. Smith has been an Adjunct Instructor in the Humanities Department since 2004 teaching EN101 and EN102. She has also been a Corporate Trainer since 2007, for such areas as business communications, technical writing, managing priorities, customer service, decision making and writing job descriptions.

Mrs. Smith holds a Bachelor of Art degree in English from Villanova University and a Masters in English from the University of Rochester.

This Barneveld resident is married, husband is Roger, and has two cats. She enjoys fly fishing, fly tying, knitting, quilting, weaving and sewing.

Mrs. Smith is also a member of the Oneida County Health Coalition Steering Committee, Administrative Consultant 2-1-1 Leatherstocking Region and acts as a consultant for the Central New York Conservancy.

# Capturing the Multicultural Experience

## *DGV Essay winner*

The Diversity and Global View Committee in conjunction with Student Congress selected the winning essays for the "Experiences in Multiculturalism: Diversity and Global View Essay Contest - Spring 2008."

Participants could choose from two topics. This week the *Communitas* will publish the winning essay by Jose Alejandro Benitez on "Capturing the Multicultural Experience: Your prior experiences in diversity before enrolling at MVCC."

### **By Jose Alejandro (Alex) Benitez**

Diversity is the reunion of different cultures from different parts of the world. Some people's ancestors arrived in this country centuries ago, while there are others who are the first generation of their family born in America like me, and there are others like my friends who came to the United States recently in search of the American dream.

My name is Alex. I was born in the United States and raised in Colombia. I recently turned 21 years old and I came back to the United States in 2000. I went to I.S. 235, graduated from the Academy for New Americans and went to the International High School in 2001. Now I'm in my third year of college and I'm a human services major, ready to graduate next semester.

Through middle school and high school I learned so much about different cultures around the world. Both schools had an incredible amount of diversity - all the students from non-English speaking countries. Together as friends, but also as classmates, we went through the journey of becoming part of American society, and we are still proud of our own heritage. Within Colombia there are also different diversities, and I learned from that too. During those five years I learned great things from great counties.

Diversity is not only about having someone from a different country or religion next to you. It is about the dif-



**AWARD WINNER** - Jose Alejandro Benitez receives the award for the Diversity and Global View Essay Contest. It was presented by Sarah Beth Lardie, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement.

ferent things you can learn from them. Heritage is like a gift passed down from our parents to us, and we have the chance to share this gift with other people around the world, and they have the chance to share it with us. Watching Brazilian people dancing Samba, or Dominicans dancing Bachata, and people from Morocco doing belly dances for school performances is an experience I would never trade for anything. I know some of them would never trade seeing people from my country dancing Cumbia or Mapale. Hearing their aspirations and dreams makes someone wish for much more than just the world. I lived diversity, I am diversity, and I have all these wonderful memories of people from all over the world in my mind, ready to be shared with others.

I thought my knowledge about diversity was complete, by going to a school full of immigrants, but I was wrong. Coming to MVCC has changed that. Yes, many of the people here are white, and some are black while others are Hispanic but don't even know a word of Spanish. What do I know of these people? When I first came here I knew nothing. My friends and I were counting on the stereotypes that we saw in American movies. When I was here by myself, I learned there was so much more I didn't know.

Within the American people who attend MVCC are different amounts of diversities that are skin deep. Very few know where they come from and others aren't sure. But the ones who know are

proud of where they come from. It is amazing to see so much diversity that can only be heard when they talk about it. I've seen Irish-American people who are very proud of where their ancestors came from. The Italian-Americans talk about their great Italian dinners with all of their family members. Hearing German descendents pronouncing their names the way it should be in German. Their heritage is flowing through them, but they don't know it, and the ones that do realize it are proud of where they come from and of who they are.

I didn't get to see any dances, or didn't get to learn any new words in a different language. But I still got to see the diversity that lives within families and within everyone who comes to this school. I learned that diversity is so much more than just looking different, or a piece of paper that says "American Citizen," or speaking perfect English without getting stuck on a word you don't know. Diversity is definitely a great thing, one like no other.

Having people around you from different places makes someone want to know more about the world. The gift of heritage is something passed on to us, and having a great diversity gives us a chance to share it, making us a part of it. Now that I've learned from immigrants from all over the world and American people from different heritages, I can say I lived diversity, and I have a gift to share with everyone. I'm an immigrant, and at the same time, I am an American Citizen.

# Svoboda presented award for work with Society for Respiratory Care

Charles Svoboda, Associate Professor in the Health Services Department, recently chaired the program committee for Northeast Regional COPD Conference at the Sagamore Resort on Lake George on May 9 and 10, and has agreed to Chair the 2nd Annual Northeast Regional COPD Conference to be held May 8 and 9, 2009.

Mr. Svoboda received a plaque at the conference luncheon in recognition of his service to the NYSSRC. The plaque reads: "Gratefully presented to Chuck Svoboda, MS, RRT, as a permanent expression of our Grateful Acknowledgement for your Distinguished Service as President of the New York State Society for Respiratory Care from January 2006 to January 2008."

The MVCC Respiratory Care Club sent seven of its second year students to the conference along with the entire faculty.

This was the very first Northeast Regional COPD Conference and was hosted by the New York State Society for Respiratory Care (NYSSRC). The NYSSRC is the New York Chartered Affiliate of MVCC's National Professional Society American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC).

The program was sponsored by the New York State Society for Respiratory Care, Inc. and co-sponsored by the New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Vermont/ New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut Societies for Respiratory Care and was also endorsed by the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP).

Over 250 people attended the meetings.

The Target Audience was physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, respiratory therapists and other



**AWARD FOR DEDICATION** - Charles Svoboda, Associate Professor in the Health Services Department, left, is presented an award for his dedication and work with the New York State Society for Respiratory Care. Presenting him the award is David Foley, president.

interested healthcare providers. The conference registrants were from across the northeast and country, with one physician traveling from Vietnam to attend.

The faculty for the conference was a very distinguished national recognized lineup from Seattle, Denver, Pittsburgh, Boston, Durham, North Carolina, New York City, Cleveland, Syracuse, and Albany.

## STEP students tour ET&T facilities

Students from the college's STEP (Science and Technology Entry Program) were given a tour of the Engineering Technologies and the Trades Department's laboratories by Assistant Professor Brian Judycki.

The students were Jacob Henry, Nicole Pearson, Perla Marte, Lizette Rodriguez, Wendy Reynoso, Karina Felix, Julissa Cordero, Devin Paul, Tiffany Cabrera, Albert Cabrera, Jonathan Melendez, Laquentin Jackson, and Valerie Rivera.

STEP is funded by the New York State Department of Education and is designed to foster academic excellence, nurture students' preparation for college, and increase awareness and opportunities for historically underrepresented, economically disadvantaged students in the fields of mathematics, science, technology, and health related fields.



**VIEWING THEIR FUTURE** - Assistant Professor Brian Judycki gives a tour of the Engineering Technologies and the Trades Department's facilities to students from the college's STEP program.