Communitas
MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter
Week of October 13, 2008

Video phones enable hearing impaired to communicate

Learning and communication is an essential part of college life. The proximity of MVCC's Rome Campus to the New York State School for the Deaf has helped bring new communication toos to Rome and the region.

In May of this year, the college made arrangements with Sorenson VRS to provide free video telephone service to the college and the surrounding communities in both Rome and Utica.

"These video phones allow you to actually have face-to-face conversations," said Pattina Keniston, an instructor in the Psychology, Human Services and Education Department and Coordinator for Educational Interpretation. "The person dials the number on the key pad, clicks to the Video Relay Service (VRS) and an interpreter makes the call. They can call a doctor with questions, order pizza, or have a conversation with their teacher about that day's assignment and the interpreter then relays the message."

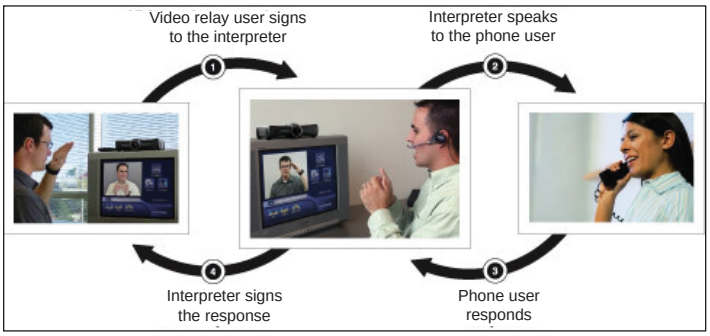
And if the deaf or hearing impaired person is contacting another deaf or hearing impaired person, they are able to skip the interpreter and have a real-time on-screen conversation.

Here's how it works: each video phone system consists of a monitor with a mounted camera and a remote keypad that resembles a TV remote. The user then contacts the Sorenson call center, which handles calls from throughout North America. Using American Sign Language, the interpreter translates the conversation between the hearing impaired person and the non-hearing impaired person.

This service is provided free of charge by Sorenson with funding coming from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The VRS equipment was also provided free by the company.

There are currently three VRS phone systems on the Rome Campus, located in the Plumely Complex Atrium, the student lounge in the Academic Building and in Keniston's office. On the Utica Campus, these VRS systems are located in the lobby of Payne Hall, the Student Center in the Alumni College Center and the Disability Services Office in the Academic Building.

KEEPING IN TOUCH - A student demonstrates how to use the Sorenson VRS system on the Rome Campus.



"I have seen community deaf people come in to use the VPs (video phones). We have deaf adjuncts working on campus and it is nice to have face to face meetings without having to drive. It has opened up a great deal of access for faculty, staff as well for the students," says Keniston.

MVCC currently has nine deaf or hearing impaired students who previous had limited telephone access because the Tele-Type Communicators (TTY) and Tele/Type of Deaf (TTD) systems were locked in offices after hours, according to Keniston. The TTY system is still available on the Rome Campus.

"These VP phones meet the needs of our students and faculty. Now we just have to let our students know that we have these systems and where they are located," says Keniston, who is a Nationally Certified (CI) Sign Language Interpreter. "It is a great empowerment tool."

With the every growing use of cell phones, there are also smaller portable VRS telephones which can be plugged into a telephone jack for service.

MVCC Faces: John Bullis

As MVCC charts a new course, John Bullis is ready to help set direction.

Bullis took over the position of Executive Director of Organizational Development at the start of the fall semester with a full-plate of assignments awaiting him.

As liaison for the President's Office, Bullis' responsibilities include development of government relations, special assignments through the President's Office and the expansion of professional development programs.

"President VanWagoner has set out an exciting vision for the College. I want to work as hard as I can with our faculty and staff to help achieve the institution's goals – thereby creating the best possible opportunity for student success," says Bullis.

Bullis brings a wealth of experience to the position having worked in a similar capacity for 26 years at Herkimer County Community College. During this time he earned the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Professional Service, National Council of Marketing and Public Relations Gold Award as well as the SUNYCUAD Annual Program and Service Awards.

In the business sector, he was Executive Director for the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce for two years.

A resident of Fairfield, Bullis chairs MVCC's Crisis Planning Committee and in the community was a board member of the West Canada Riverkeepers for two years. He has been Chairman of the Little Falls Hospital Board of Trustees since 2003.

Bullis is a 1971 graduate from HCCC in Behavioral Science and earned his Bachelor's in Psychology from SUNY Cortland in 1975. His Master of Science is in Counseling from SUNY Oneonta (1980) and he earned a Certificate of Management Development from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1995.

When not at work, he enjoys "riding things with two wheels, roaming around the woods and writing poetry." His wife is Janet Tamburrino and he has a daughter Amy Jo, who is married to Jason Phillips and resides in Eagle Rock, California.

DGV
Diversity and Global View

"Diversity may be the hardest thing for a society to live with, and perhaps the most dangerous thing for a society to be without."

Rev. William Sloan Coffin, Jr. (1924-2006)
Christian clergyman and peace activist

Submitted: Jennifer DeWeerth, Director of the Student Service Center

SANTAS IN GREEN - The Hawks baseball team helped collected over 200 toys to kick off the "Holly Days Toy Drive" on Friday, October 3, at Murnane Field. This toy drive is sponsored by the Marine Corps League of Ilion which distributes toys during the Christmas season to needy children. Last year nearly 3,000 children received toys from the "Holly Days Toy Drive."

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

MVCC EVENTS

Friday, October 17

County Planning Department, Room 225, Info Tech, 8:00 am
Popcorn Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 8:00 am
Candy Sale Academic Building Lobby, 11:00 am
Gay/Straight Alliance, Room 212, Alumni College, 1:00 pm
Health Fair, Academic Building Lobby, 1:00 pm
Student Congress, Room 212, Alumni College, 3:00 pm
CCED: Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 pm
Cultural Series: "The Fantasticks," Theater, 8:00 pm

Saturday, October 18

Spelling Bee, Room 116, Alumni College, 8:00 am
Civil Service Exams, Rooms 220-234, Acad Build, 9:00 am
Men's Soccer hosts Broome CC, Soccer Field, 1:00 pm
Women's Soccer hosts Jamestown, Soccer Field, 2:00 pm
Cultural Series: "The Fantasticks," Theater, 8:00 pm

Monday, October 20

SUNY Oneonta, Academic Building Lobby, 9:00 am
International: Candy Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 11:00 am
Pumpkin Painting, MV Commons, 11:00 am
SNO: Popcorn Sale, Plumley Atrium, 11:00 am
Brown Bag Lunch Series: "How to Study Math & Science," Room L43, Plumley Complex, 12:00 pm
Chess Club Games, Room 114, Alumni College, 3:30 pm
CCED: Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 21

SUNY Oneonta, Academic Building Lobby, 9:00 am
SNO: Popcorn Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 10:00 am
Cultural Series: Pianist Carleton J. Boone, Theater, 1:00 pm
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 pm
Cultural Series: Recycled Percussion, Theater, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, October 22

SUNY Oneonta, Academic Building Lobby, 9:00 am
International: Candy Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 11:00 am
SNO: Popcorn Sale, Plumley Atrium, 11:00 am
Brown Bag Lunch Series: "How to Study Math & Science," Room 116, Alumni College, 12:00 pm
"Lunches with Pizzazz," Hospitality Dinning Room, Academic Building, 12:00 pm
NYRI Information Forums, Theater, 1:00 & 6:00 pm
NYRI Public Statement Hearings, Theater, 2:00 & 7:00 pm
The Experience, Room 218, Alumni College, 4:00 pm
Concert Band Practice, Room 116, Alumni College, 7:00 pm
Night Hawk Café: "Make Your Own Candy, Caramel or Chocolate Apple," MV Commons, 7:00 pm
Lecture/Book Signing: Author David Pitkin, Plumley Auditorium, 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 23

SUNY Oneonta, Academic Building Lobby, 9:00 am
SNO: Popcorn Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 10:00 am
CCED: Aerobics, Room 116, Alumni College, 6:00 pm
Strategic Gaming Club, Room 218, Alumni College, 6:00 pm
CCED: Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 pm
Drama Club Auditions, MV Commons, 7:00 pm
Volleyball vs. Jefferson CC, Gym, 7:00 Pm

Staff Development Programs

Technology Tuesday:

SIRS: Faculty and Staff Information

Presented by: Norma Chrisman

Description:
Faculty members can learn how to retrieve their class rosters and input grades. All employees will learn how to retrieve their payroll information and leave balances.

When:
October 21, 2008
09:45 am - 10:30 am 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm
Location:
AB 261/ PC DL Room

Web Wednesday:

Wit and wisdom; quips and quotes; facts and figures: all from your desktop, laptop and PDA!

Presented by: Colleen Kehoe-Robinson

Description:
The MVCC Library presents the electronic reference collection in this Web Wednesday workshop. Credo Reference provides access to a wealth of authoritative resources that can be searched from home or office. While the reference collection platform has evolved from print to electronic, the quality and integrity of the information remains the same! Learn how to search dictionaries, thesauri, encyclopedias, quotations, atlases and more. Finding that perfect entry for your online course and guiding students to reliable reference sources online is only a click away on the MVCC Library web site.

When:
October 22, 2008
09:00 am - 09:45 am 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm
Location:
AB 261/ PC DL Room

V8 Thursday:

Blackboard: Preview Version 8

Presented by: Jim Lynch / Norma Chrisman

Description:
Check out Blackboard's latest version and see what has changed.

When:
October 23, 2008
02:15 pm - 03:00 pm
Location:
AB 261/ PC DL Room

To reserve your seat in any workshop, please go to www.mvcc.edu/webforms/workshops/

Engineering students tour Clarkson University

A group of students from MVCC made a visit to Clarkson University School of Engineering on Friday, October 3.

Celia Domser, Department Head of Engineering, Computer and Physical Sciences worked with Jeff Birt from the Engineering Technology and the Trades Department to bring both first and second year students to Clarkson for a tour. The students toured engineering labs, computer facilities, classrooms and sports facilities, which included the hockey arena.

Following the tours, the students were treated to lunch where four MVCC graduates who are now attending Clarkson, discussed their experiences at university. Several students from other community colleges spoke as well.

The overwhelming comment from the MVCC-to-Clarkson students was how well they were prepared at MVCC for admittance to the Clarkson programs. The visiting students also heard from Kim Cook, a graduate of MVCC and Clarkson, now employed at IBM.

The students making the trip were: Robb Drumm, Philip Gentile, Andy Frank, Courtney Bendall, Alex Vogel, Ashley Waldron, Justin Hinman, Katelyn, Lindsey, Gregory Mesagna, Andy Wallace, Steve Kana, Thomas Urtz, Nick McCormick, George Perry, Matt Herron, Paul Wolber, Krystal Alger, Matthew Loners, Frank Grimaldi, Ralph Mott, Martin Olfat, and Tim Ramos a visitor from Rome Free Academy.

MVCC Athlete of the Week

Hoffman

Hannah Hoffman set a personal best time at the Hamilton College Cross Country Invitational with a time of 19 minutes, 25 seconds. For her performance, she has been named MVCC Athlete of the Week for the week ending October 12.

With this time, Hoffman was the first junior college runner to complete the course. MVCC's women's cross country team is ranked No. 1 in the NJCAA national poll.

Hoffman is a freshman Nutrition and Dietetics major who graduated from Rome Free Academy.

Notice to all Classified Staff

This is a reminder to all classified staff that Article XII.2 of the contract indicates that a maximum of 15 days of vacation time may be carried from one year into the next. All vacation time beyond 15 days will be lost on January 1, 2009. Employees who may be affected by this provision and who wish to take some vacation time during the rest of 2008 should check with their supervisors early so that arrangements can be made to grant the leave at a time that is mutually agreeable.