



## Sodexo recognized as top employer

Providing an enjoyable working experience and preserving the environment are notable attributes of a successful company. The Sodexo Food Service Division at MVCC was recently recognized for demonstrating such qualities when the New York State Rehabilitation Association (NYSRA) awarded the Corporate Regional Business Award to Sodexo.

Sodexo was nominated by Joanne Donaruma, Director of Employment Services for the ARC of Oneida and Lewis Counties. She was on hand at this month's Board of Trustees meeting to present the award to Jim Suriano, General Manager for Sodexo Food Service at MVCC; Jason Martin, Chef Manager; and Bill Rotchford, District Manager out of Baldwinsville, for their dedication.

"You deserve our appreciation for all your wonderful work," said Donaruma.

NYSRA annually recognizes businesses who are "employment partners" with agencies in providing full employment opportunities for people with differing abilities. The NYSRA presents the awards in October which is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"Sodexo has demonstrated a working relationship with the ARC of Oneida and Lewis Counties and it is a company that has hiring and retention practices reflecting professional growth for all employees of differing abilities. The NYSRA is pleased to recognize this business and support its continued commitment to employment opportunities for all New Yorkers," according to an NYSRA statement.



**BEING A STANDOUT EMPLOYER** - Jim Suriano, General Manager for Sodexo Food Service at MVCC, accepts the New York State Rehabilitation Association's regional award from Joanne Donaruma, Director of Employment Services for the ARC of Oneida and Lewis Counties, during this month's Board of Trustees meeting. Standing behind Suriano is Maggie Hansen of College Works.

Suriano was lauded by Board Chairman Bill Calli, who said "I'm glad to see another agency recognize all the hard work by Jim and his staff."

## Oneida County Health Department offers free flu shots as part of practice pandemic vaccine distribution

MVCC is cooperating with the Oneida County Health Department to conduct a practice Point of Distribution (POD) event in the MVCC Gymnasium, on Wednesday, November 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Health Department will provide free flu shots for interested MVCC ID card holders (faculty, staff, students) and disabled residents of Oneida County.

According to Oneida County Health Department staff, POD events are normally conducted to address pandemics and other types of catastrophic incidents where mass vaccination or inoculation is required.

"In a public emergency, MVCC has been designated as a possible POD site," said John Ralowski, a Public Health Planner with the Oneida County Health Department. "The POD exercise at MVCC on the 19th allows us to test our ability to provide mass vaccinations, as well as to provide free flu shots to the campus community and disabled residents of the County."

MVCC Athletic Department, Safety, and Health Office staff have been involved in planning the event. MVCC Nursing students are scheduled to assist as well.

# Grassroots movement promotes public education

## What is SUNY Advocates?

*SUNY Advocates* is a grassroots network of alumni, faculty, staff, students and community members of New York State public colleges and universities who value a strong state investment in higher education. Advocates will be asked to talk to their friends, family, neighbors -- and especially their elected officials -- about the value that their local campus and the State University of New York offers to the state. The *SUNY Advocates* Web site will provide valuable information to advocates about the SUNY budget request, making it easier for supporters to learn about issues and happenings on campus and throughout SUNY. The Web site also will provide a wide variety of resources and tools, available at their fingertips, to assist supporters advocating for SUNY in their communities and at the Capitol.

## Why do we need SUNY Advocates?

Building a grassroots network of supporters is a powerful way to raise awareness of the impact that each of SUNY institution has throughout the state and on the local community, thus building stronger public awareness of and support for SUNY's work. The upcoming special session and subsequent regular legislative session are going to be difficult for SUNY, as the State of New York faces \$2 billion in cuts for the balance of this fiscal year and a \$12.5 billion deficit next year. The impact of the state budget on SUNY will come down to our ability to demonstrate to state leaders and the public that SUNY is a critical state investment.

## Why is Grassroots important?

"When I feel the heat, I see the light." Senator Russell, Georgia



Grassroots advocacy is a powerful way for legislators to "see the light" on the need to invest in SUNY campuses throughout the state. This session, legislators will hear from many different interest groups across the state, and *SUNY Advocates* will be there to make sure our voice is heard. When alumni, faculty, staff and students advocate together, we will be more successful explaining to legislators why state investment in SUNY campuses is critical.

## What is the SUNY is the Solution Campaign?

In January 2009 SUNY will launch a campaign to educate elected officials and the public about how "SUNY is the Solution" to the state's economic problems. The central theme of this campaign will convey that now is not the time to be cutting SUNY but, rather, an opportunity to invest in SUNY as a way to spur an economic recovery in New York. We will ask supporters to sign a petition urging state leaders to support a strong investment in SUNY.

Petitions will be collected through the *SUNY Advocates* Web site.

## Key Strategies for SUNY Advocates

- Campuses recruit alumni, faculty, staff and students to become SUNY Advocates
- Tell the SUNY story and the impact that it has on all New Yorkers – especially the impact on your local campus and community
- Motivate supporters to educate their community and state leaders about the value of SUNY
- Hold SUNY Legislative Event on Campus
- Launch "SUNY is Solution" petition campaign



## Office administration class hosts speakers from Air Force labs

Deborah Facciolo, Procurement Analyst, and Carol Kunkel, Program Analyst from (AFRL) the Air Force Research Laboratory spoke to Rosemary Fuoco's Office Administration Class on Monday, October 20.

They discussed mastering the interview, the dos and don'ts in preparing your resume, rules for interviewing, and how to dress for success. The Air Force Research Laboratory has a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) with MVCC.

The Administrative Assistant Certificate and the Administrative Assistant Program have an agreement with the Rome Lab. Students work at Rome Lab full-time and attend MVCC on a part-time basis. The student has to enroll in six credits a semester. This has been a wonderful opportunity for MVCC and the students, says Fuoco.

# MVCC EVENTS

## Saturday, November 1

Bolshevik Theatre Company, Room 116, Alumni College, 8:00 am

## Monday, November 3

Mock Election, Plumley Complex Atrium, 9:00 am

Candy Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 11:00 am

Non-Traditional Students Week: Coffee Kickoff,  
Plumley Complex Atrium, 12:30 pm

Lecture: Randy Cohen, NY Times Ethicist, Theatre, 2:00 pm

Chess Club Games, Room 114, Alumni College, 3:30 pm

Brown Bag Lunch Series: "How to Beat the Cram Out of  
Finals," Room L43, Plumley Complex, 4:00 pm

Non-Traditional Students Week: Coffee Kickoff,  
Academic Building Lobby, 4:00 pm

CCED: Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 pm

CCED: Kickboxing, Room 116, Alumni College, 7:15 pm

Drama Club, Room 225 Info Tech Building, 7:00 pm

## Tuesday, November 4

Popcorn Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 10:00 am

Popcorn Sale, Plumley Complex Atrium, 11:00 am

Special Art Presentation by Roderick Martinez, Room 225,  
Info Tech Building, 3:00 pm

Phi Theta Kappa, Room 114, Alumni College, 4:00 pm

Drama Club, Room 225 Info Tech Building, 7:00 pm

Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 8:00 pm

Team Rootberry Jugglers, Theatre, 8:00 pm

## Wednesday, November 5

SUNY IT Information Table, Plumley Complex Atrium, 9:30 am

Candy Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 11:00 am

Non-Traditional Students Week: Answers for Adults,  
Payne Hall Lobby, 11:00 am

Popcorn Sale, Plumley Complex Atrium, 11:00 am

Brown Bag Lunch Series: "Fear Not: Test Anxiety Help,"  
Room 116, Alumni College, 12:00 pm

College Senate, Room 116, Alumni College, 2:30 pm

Ecology Club, Room 114, Alumni College, 3:30 pm

The Experience, Room 118, Alumni College, 4:00 pm

Placement Testing, Room 225, Info Tech Building, 5:00 pm

Keuka College Info Session, Room 220, Info Tech Building, 5:30 pm

MVCC Concert Band Practice, Room 116, Alumni College, 7:00 pm

Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 pm

Peaceful Gals Quilting Club, Room A32, Plumley Complex, 7:00 pm

Drama Club Room 225, Info Tech Building, 7:00 pm

Cultural Series Concert: "The Ultimate Tribute to Pink Floyd" w/  
Childhood's End, Theatre, 8:00 pm

## Thursday, November 6

Popcorn Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 10:00 am

The Adult Circus/Variety Show, MV Commons, 12:00 pm

Ecology Club, Room 116, Alumni College, 4:00 pm

Non-Traditional Students Week: Family Feast, MV Commons, 5:00 pm

Strategic Gaming Club, Room 212, Alumni College, 6:00 pm

Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 pm

Lecture: "Oneida Iroquois: Folklore, Myth & History"

w/Tony Wonderley, Plumley Complex Auditorium, 7:00 pm  
Drama Club Room 225, Info Tech Building, 7:00 pm

## Friday, November 7

Candy Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 11:00 am

Gay/Straight Alliance, Room 212, Alumni College, 1:00 pm

Drama Club Room 225, Info Tech Building, 7:00 pm

Concert: "The Violin Venus Show" w/Jane Hunt, Theatre, 8:00 pm

## MVCC Faces: Michelle Scranton



**Michelle Scranton**  
**Coordinator of**  
**Recreation & Leisure Services**

Michelle Scranton may have one of the most enjoyable jobs at MVCC. As Program Coordinator of Recreation and Leisure Services, she gets to teach students how to have fun. But honestly, it is serious work.

Scranton lends her energetic personality to teaching Introduction to Recreation (RE100), Recreation Leadership and Activities Development (RE105) and Outdoor Recreation Activities (RE106). She'll also be teaching Safety and Liability (RE102) for the first time in the spring semester.

"I would like to see this program grow as the recreation field is full of opportunity," says Scranton, who began at the college in January of 2008. "There's a real lack of information about the recreation profession.

Scranton's responsibilities extend to advising students and coordinating the recreation program. She is also the Coordinator of Athletic Retention, a program aimed at keeping athletes academically eligible. Along with being on the college's Educational Advisory Board, Scranton is the Director of Marcy's Children Day Camp during the summer months.

"I love to do everything and anything that is fun," said Scranton, who is currently in a volleyball league with her sister Missy.

This Marcy resident earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Recreation and Leisure Service with an emphasis in Public Administration from SUNY Brockport.

Her parents are James and Rita Scranton and she also has three older brothers.

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

# MVCC celebrates non-traditional students

Nearly a quarter of the MVCC student population is non-traditional students, adults 25 years and older enrolled in credit bearing programs. In honor of this group of students, the college will celebrate Non-Traditional Student Recognition Week, November 2-8, with events on both the Utica and Rome campuses.

## Events being held are:

- **Monday, November 3** – Coffee Kickoff, Plumley Complex (Rome), 12:30-2:00 p.m.; Academic Building Lobby (Utica), 4:00-6:00 p.m. There will be free coffee, hot chocolate and half moons.

- **Tuesday, November 4** – E-mail Education, provide information about non-traditional students along with facts and figures about adult learners.

- **Wednesday, November 5** – Answers For Adults, Payne Hall Lobby, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Information booths will be set up to answer questions on Financial Aid, Learning Center, Kiddie Campus, Adult Services, Returning Adult Student Association, Counseling, and much more.

- **Thursday, November 6** – Fall Family Feast, MV Commons, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Free pizza and seasonal treats provided for adult students and their families. Activities for the kids while adult have a chance to mingle with other adult students.

What many in the college community may not realize are the hurdles these non-traditional students have to overcome in pursuit of an education and hopefully a better life. These students perform a juggling act of balancing their school work with family life and for most jobs.

MVCC's enrollment, as of the second week in October (which doesn't include the 889 dual-credit students), was 5,238. Of this number, there are 1,395 non-traditional stu-



**ON SITE VISIT** - Komal Patel, a non-traditional student, is shown a patient's chart at St. Lukes Hospital as part of her nursing education at MVCC.

dents with the top six programs they are enrolled being nursing, non-matriculated, general studies, business management, human services and accounting.

Of this group, 630 are full-time students while 765 are part-time. In the age group of 25-29, there are 484 students while in 30-39 there are 499. For 40-49, MVCC has 313 non-traditional students and 99 students who are 50 and older.

Both the Utica and Rome campuses cater to these non-traditional students as well as the Distance Learning Program.

To learn more about MVCC's Non-Traditional Student Recognition Week, contact Adult Services at 792-5583.

## Student Service Center moves into the future

*By Jennifer DeWeerth,  
Director of the Student Service Center*

Do you wonder what happened to the Adult Services Office? The College is still providing support for adult students through the able efforts of Janet Visalli and Patti Antanavige in the Student Service Center in Payne Hall. They assist adult and traditional age students as needed from pre-enrollment through graduation, and are sponsoring a series of events next week to celebrate National Non-traditional Student Week.

The College has increased its staffing in academic advising. Justin Rahn, who has been a part-time advisor for over a year, joins the staff full-time on Oct. 28. With Dawson McDermott, he will share the pre-nursing advising load (approximately 400 students) and handle walk-in and new student advisement. The Advisement Center will also be focusing on some new retention advisement programs for students who are at risk of academic probation, dismiss-

al, or loss of financial aid for academic reasons.

The First Year Experience staff is working as a team with the Counseling Office and Career, Transfer, and Job Placement Services in the Student Service Center in Payne Hall. There are now more than a half a dozen people in the area who can assist students to change their major, re-matriculate, or get basic help with academic and career planning. By breaking down silos we believe we can provide better, more accessible support to students.

Moving into the future, the First Year Experience staff will work in partnership with other college offices to coordinate new student advising and orientation, develop new student success programs, and strengthen systems that help students get off to a good start in their first semesters at MVCC.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer DeWeerth, Director of the Student Service Center/First Year Experience, at 731-5818 or e-mail at [jdeweerth@mvcc.edu](mailto:jdeweerth@mvcc.edu).