

# Communitas



MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of September 15, 2008

## Culinary students shine at Rome grand opening

Students in the MVCC Hospitality Department were given an excellent opportunity this past week to demonstrate their skills and talent to a corporate client and over 400 guests at the grand opening of the new Wingate by Wyndham Hotel in Rome.

The owners of the hotel, located in the Griffiss Business and Technology Park, approached Dr. Bruce Neil, Hospitality Department Head and Assistant Professor, with the opportunity to give the culinary students “real world experience.” Hotel officials initially wanted to present a buffet for community and business leaders, but Dr. Neil insisted his students could do much better.

“All of the culinary students participated in this event as we worked in shifts,” said Dr. Neil. “Their performance was superb. They worked exceptionally well together and when they were done with their assignments, they were looking for more to do to help everyone else. It was fabulous working with this group.”

The students began preparation for the grand opening at 10:00 a.m. and were on location as scheduled at 3:00 p.m. for setup. Two hours later, the party began and MVCC’s students were right on the mark. For three hours, MVCC’s students and staff provided upscale service as all the food was served “Butler Style.”

“Everything was hand served and it was a great opportunity for the students to experience this type of upscale service,” said Dr. Neil.

Some of the dishes made and served by the culinary students were beef ten-



**TOP OF THE LINE SERVICE** - Students from the Hospitality Department provided the food service during the grand opening of the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel in Rome. Above, Amanda Callahan serves Oneida County Legislator Rose Ann Convertino. Below, Lorinda Strawn and Cathy Connolly work on preparing food in the staging area.

derloin canapa, sliced melon with prosciutto; shrimp cocktail; chicken satay; greens in filo dough; and fried artichoke hearts, which the students had to return to the Rome Campus to prepare more of. Desserts featured seven-layer cookies and a chocolate fountain with assorted dipping fruits and cookies.

The culinary students even had to overcome several obstacles to make this event a success. Upon arrival, electrical outlets were not available in the staging area, so the students had to utilize Cambro food storage units. To keep the cold food cold, they wrapped dry ice and place it in the upper trays in the containers. For the hot food, instead of dry ice they used bricks heated to 500 degrees. Both these methods preserved the food throughout the evening. Also, the students were told to prepare enough food for 275 guests only to have over 425 people in attendance.

“We always over-prepare and for this reason we were ready and no one

went hungry. The best part was that we came back with no food,” said Dr. Neil, who commended his students for making their 8:00 a.m. classes the next day. “It was very strategically and technically planned to pull this off and the students did it.”



# Students build chairs for community auction

Students in the Engineering Technologies and The Trades Department demonstrated what the word “community” stands for in Mohawk Valley Community College when they volunteered to build metal chairs for an auction that benefited local not-for-profit organizations.

“The chairs were sold off at Sculpture Space last Friday with the proceeds going to charities and not-for-profit groups,” said Michael Sorrentino, an Instructor in the Engineering Technologies and The Trades Department. “The chairs were purchased by local residents from Clinton, New Hartford and Utica.”

Sculpture Space is a not-for-profit organization in Utica that hosts artists from around the world and provides studio space for them to work.

This is the second year MVCC students have offered

their assistance. The 14 students worked in teams to cut, shape and weld together seven chairs for the auction using a wide range of metals. These students were from the MT 170 – Oxy-Acetylene Welding Procedures and MT 270 – Welding Procedures for MIG & TIG classes.

The chairs in this year’s auction raised \$2,300,



**PULL UP A CHAIR** - Students from the welding program at MVCC sit in the chairs they made in class which were donated to a fund raising auction last week. The students made seven chairs which sold for a total of \$2,300.



topping last year’s total of \$2,000.

“Working in teams of two and three, the students came up with their own ideas of what they wanted their chair to look like. There was a real diversity in styles with some being very elaborate,” said Sorrentino. “It is a great function in which everyone can get involved, and one of the chairs sold for \$525 which really excited the kids.”

Due to the success of the auction, 10 students have already voiced interest in repeating this project in the spring. This project was a collaboration within the college between the Art Department and the Engineering Technologies and The Trades Department.

Other projects in the pipeline include work by the WAC (Welding Art and CAD - Computer Aided Drafting) Club which is hoping to create some artwork which can then be displayed around the Utica and Rome campuses.

## Mock arrest helps teach students their Constitutional Rights

The students, faculty and staff in attendance of the Constitution Day lecture this week were shocked into silence when a student was served a bench warrant by an Oneida County Sheriff.

But not to worry as this mock arrest was all part of the lecture to demonstrate how the United States Constitution applies to the judicial system.

The student accompanied Sergeant James McCarthy to the stage where a mock arrangement was performed by the Honorable John Balzano of the Utica City Court. Also present was Esther Cohen Lee of the Oneida County Public Defenders Office as the student’s representative and Grant Garramone of the Oneida County District Attorney’s Office.

Following the proceedings, each member of the panel explained to the audience their rights as citizens when dealing with each particular stage of the judicial system.

The panel fielded questions from the students on Miranda

Rights and how they apply where there is a “custodial interrogation,” how bail is determined, and what freedoms are lost following a conviction. Other topics covered the importance of seeking legal representation and not assuming knowledge of the law.

Mr. Garramone talked at length on how a criminal record follows an individual throughout their life and the impact it has.

“Prayers for the condemned man will be offered on an adding machine. Numbers constitute the only universal language.”



**Nathanael West (1903-1940)**  
Author, Screenwriter and Satirist

*Submitted by Tom Schink, Mathematics Department*

## MVCC EVENTS

### Friday, September 19

Women's Tennis hosts Hudson Valley CC, 4:00 p.m.  
Cross Country at Oneonta, 5:15 p.m.  
Concert: "Showtime," Theatre (\$5 General, \$2 w/College ID,  
Free w/ MVCC ID), 8:00 p.m.

### Saturday, September 20

Women's Volleyball at Tompkins-Cortland CC, 10:30 a.m.  
Women's Tennis hosts CCRI, 1:00 p.m.  
Women's Soccer hosts Genesee CC, 2:00 p.m.  
Men's Soccer hosts Genesee CC, 2:00 p.m.

### Monday, September 22

Public Policy Club voter registration, AB Lobby, 9:00 a.m.  
Jewelry Sale, AB Lobby, 9:00 a.m.  
International Club: Candy Sale, AB Lobby, 11:00 a.m.  
American Red Cross blood drive, Room 242, Plumley, Noon  
Chess Club, Room 114, Alumni College Center, 3:30 p.m.  
Drama Club Rehearsal, Room 225, Information Technology,  
7:00 p.m.  
Movie: National Treasure, Book of Secrets, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, September 23

Public Policy Club voter registration, AB Lobby, 9:00 a.m.  
Jewelry Sale, AB Lobby, 9:00 a.m.  
Kidz-n-Coaches Meeting, Room 391, Payne Hall, 12:30 p.m.  
Sculpture Space Resident Artist Lecture, Room 225,  
Information Technology Building, 3:00 p.m.  
Women's Tennis hosts Herkimer CCC, 4:00 p.m.  
Volleyball hosts Fulton-Montgomery CC, 6:00 p.m.  
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.  
Drama Club Rehearsal, Room 225, Information Technology,  
7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, September 24

Club & Student Services Day, AB Quad, 10:00 a.m.  
International Club: Candy Sale, AB Lobby, 11:00 a.m.  
Luncheons with Pizzazz, Hospitality Dining Room, 11:45 a.m.  
Brown Bag Lunch Series: "Learning Styles: It's All About  
You," Room 116, Alumni College Center, 12:00 p.m.  
Kidz-n-Coaches Meeting, Room 391, Payne Hall, 1:00 p.m.  
Women's Soccer at Jefferson CC, 4:00 p.m.  
Women's Soccer at Jefferson CC, 4:00 p.m.  
Relay for Life, Room 225, Information Technology, 5:30 pm.  
Concert: Jupiter One, Theatre, 7:00 p.m.  
MVCC Concert Band Practice, Room 116, Alumni College  
Center, 7:00 p.m.  
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.

### Thursday, September 25

Lecture: "Stories in the Flesh: The Art of Tattoo" by Dr.  
Christine Braunberger, Room 225, Information Technology,  
10:00 a.m.  
Women's Tennis at Onondaga CC, 4:00 p.m.  
Oneida County: Civil Service Information Session, Room  
A10, Plumley Complex, 6:00 p.m.  
Drama Club Rehearsal, Room 225, Information Technology,  
7:00 p.m.  
Concert: Michael Fredo, Theatre (\$5 General, \$2 w/ College

## MVCC Faces: Mary Jo Thomas



**Mary Jo Thomas**  
**Senior Account Clerk**

A lot of work goes into helping the students on the Rome Campus register for classes and making sure their paperwork is all in order. As the Senior Account Clerk, Mary Jo Thomas plays a pivotal role in fulfilling students' dreams of earning a degree or certificate.

"I hope to learn my new job to the best of my abilities," says Thomas, who joined MVCC just three months ago. "I am eager to learn."

As Senior Account Clerk, Thomas' responsibilities include taking tuition payments from students and helping students register for classes.

Thomas holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

When not working, Thomas volunteers at the animal shelter and loves to read and exercise.

Thomas and her husband, Todd, reside in Rome with their three children, David, Felicia and Trinity.

ID, Free w/ MVCC ID), 8:00 p.m.

### Friday, September 26

Women's Volleyball at Onondaga Invitational, 6:00 p.m.  
International Club: Candy Sale, AB Lobby, 11:00 a.m.  
Drama Club Rehearsal, Room 225, Information Technology,  
7:00 p.m.

### Saturday, September 27

Women's Volleyball at Onondaga Invitational, 10:00 a.m.  
Cross Country at St. Lawrence, 11:00 a.m.  
Women's Soccer hosts North Country CC, 2:00 p.m.  
Men's Soccer hosts North Country CC, 2:00 p.m.  
Upward Bound, Room 116, Alumni College Center, 9:00 a.m.  
Defensive Driving, Room 205, Plumley Complex, 9:00 a.m.



**GIVE OUT A SHOUT** - The MVCC Alumni Association and Foundation hosted an Alumni Soccer Night when the Lady Hawks played Broome Community College on Thursday, September 11. Megaphones and popcorn were handed out to all students and alumni during the game. Helping out were Marie Kohl, Doug Hyldelund, Dick Goodney, Deanna Ferro, Elizabeth Harvilla and Darlene Mack-Brown.

## Alumni Association scores with Soccer Night

The Alumni Association's Soccer Night was a success with an exceptional turnout of MVCC students, alumni and local MVCC fans at the Women's Soccer game on Thursday, September 11.

The Lady Hawks faced Broome Community College in this contest.

The MVCC Alumni Association handed out over 85 megaphones and boxes filled with popcorn, and raffled off some great prizes to MVCC Students, according to Deanna Ferro, Events Coordinator for Institutional Advancement.

The Alumni Association will be at the soccer field again on Tuesday, October 7, when the MVCC men's soccer team takes on Hudson Valley Community College at 4:00 p.m. The Alumni Association will again be handing out free gifts to the first 50 MVCC Students or alumni in attendance, and will have a variety of raffle prizes available for students.

## Former professor passes away

Former MVCC professor Emanuel Mussman of New Hartford passed away on September 13, 2008, at Daughters of Sarah Nursing Center in Albany.

During his career, Mr. Mussman was a professor of English and Philosophy at New York University, Queens College, SUNY Geneseo, and for 21 years at MVCC. Professionally, he was a member of the New York State United Teachers Union, Modern Language Society, Jewish Publication Society, NYU Alumni and MVCC Professional Association.

When not on campus, Mr. Mussman was a patron of the arts and worked with the Central New York Community Arts Council to save the Stanley Theater in 1974.

A memorial service was held at Temple Emanu-El in Utica on Tuesday, September 16. To sign the family online guest book visit, [www.levinememorialchapel.com](http://www.levinememorialchapel.com)

## Message from the President

Greetings,

The fall semester is well underway and thank you to everyone for getting our students off to such a great start for the new academic year. As we get things going, I have a few updates that I wanted to share with you.

**Enrollment Update:** As of the 10th day reporting date, fall enrollment is up 3.3 percent in FTE and 3.4 percent in head count. This represents the fifth consecutive semester (dating back to summer 2007) with an enrollment increase; the largest fall enrollment in five years; and the third largest fall enrollment since the fall of 1997 (as far back as we have 10th day figures). Thank you to everyone for helping to make positive things happen that allow us to increase access and expand our reach into the community.

**Executive Team/Cabinet/Administrators Meeting:** As I mentioned at convocation, I have begun holding a monthly meeting for all administrators to help increase communication and consistency across departments at the College. Related to this change, and as part of the Strategic Plan that calls for a review of committees at the College, I have replaced the Executive Committee with the President's Cabinet. Instead of an 11 member Executive Committee, a smaller President's Cabinet meets weekly to serve as the executive leadership team. The Cabinet is comprised of myself, Dr. Maryrose Eannace (VP for Learning & Academic Affairs), Ralph Feola (VP for administrative services), Denise DiGiorgio (VP for Student Services/Dean of Students), Ron Cantor (Associate VP/Dean of Rome Campus) Joan Andrek (Director of Marketing & Communications) and Toni Carbone (Assistant to the President).

**2008-09 Budget:** Our budget request was unanimously passed by the County Legislature and is scheduled for final approval at the September meeting of the SUNY Board of Trustees. Our capital requests for the Field house and general campus site improvements are still working through the County capital request process and we should hear more about these funds in the next month or two. In the meantime, we are working to finalize a contract and gain county approval with an architectural firm for design services on the Robert Jorgensen Athletic Center Field house.

**Accreditation Self Study:** As I announced at convocation, our self-study process for institutional accreditation with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education was a great success thanks to the Steering Committee and everyone who participated in the process. The electronic versions of the self-study documents are all available on the M: drive (mvhawk) under the 2008 Self Study.

**Master Planning:** We are currently in the process of selecting an architectural and planning firm to work with us in a master planning effort that will help us chart the next 10 to 20 years at the College. Master Planning is a major initiative that you will be hearing more about in the months to come.

The next few weeks will be filled with gearing up existing and new committees and design teams to help advance the initiatives set forth in the new Strategic Plan. I will work to provide you with updates as the activities unfold. In the meantime, I'm off to a good start with weekly posts to my blog - if you haven't had a chance to visit, just click on <http://mvcc-edu.blogspot.com/>.

Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.  
President  
Mohawk Valley Community College