



The Pathways to Academic Recovery

New intervention program helps students with academic challenge

By Jennifer DeWeerth
Assistant Dean of Student Enrollment
and Advisement

The new College policy on academic standards (Found on page 17 of the College Catalog) will mean that more student GPAs will be reviewed to determine whether they are meeting the College's academic standards. The standards in turn have been adjusted to bring them into greater alignment with federal standards of academic progress (used for financial aid eligibility).

We expect that the first time the new standards are applied (this December), 1000-1200 students will be placed on Academic Intervention status.

It is our hope that students placed on academic intervention will use their spring semester to turn their academic careers around, and we want to provide extensive and ever-present supports for those students so that they can begin to succeed academically. Following grading, students on intervention and probation will receive a letter from the VPLAA

notifying them of their status, and their next step, which is attendance at a designated workshop in our new Pathways to Academic Recovery (PAR) program. The PAR program is modeled on academic recovery programs at many other colleges, and was designed and will be implemented by Liz Doherty in the First Year Experience/Advisement department in partnership with Donna Sawyer of the Learning Center along with staff from many student support and service offices.

Ten workshops are scheduled, and each is 2 hours long. Eight of those will be held on the Utica campus for commuters Jan. 11 and 12. One will be held at Rome Jan. 12, and the final one on Jan. 20th for residential students. In the workshop, students will take the LASSI, a student self assessment, to identify the factors that led to their falling below the standards, and based on that, they will make an action plan for academic success.

Their plans might include such things as taking a time management workshop,

going to instructor office hours within the first three weeks with questions about items they don't understand, going to tutoring, reducing employment hours, or meeting with their advisor. Before classes start, students will attend one or more workshops applicable to their action plan. These include time management, study skills, and career planning. Some students will also be encouraged to adjust their spring schedules for a more appropriate load or to schedule the newly revived DS 060 Personal and Academic Survival Skills course. All participants will be expected to complete at least one item on their action plan before classes start.

Academic success doesn't happen by accident. Especially for students who have experienced failure, it is critical to build step by step on efforts, increases in self-efficacy, and small "wins." The students' first steps toward success will be recognized at a Celebration of Success pizza party on January 20th at 3:00 in the Alumni College Center. All faculty and staff are welcome to attend this event.

Rome to host New Year celebration for family and friends

MVCC 's Rome Campus will be hosting a New Year Celebration on Friday, January 8, 2010, at the Delta Lake Inn.

This celebration is open to the entire College community and is ideal for bringing the entire family.

The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar followed at 7:00 p.m. by a sit-down buffet dinner. The buffet will feature Garden Salad, beef, chicken, fish, pasta, vegetables, potatoes along with dessert.

The cost is \$25 per person and \$10 for children 10 and under. Please contact Sue Halbritter to pay and reserve by December 23. She can be reached at 334-7707 or shalbritter@mvcc.edu.



DECADES OF DEDICATION TO MVCC - Toni Carbone has been a pillar at the College for over 44 years. Acting as the Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Carbone was among the 14 College employees honored this week for their dedication to MVCC. See other photos on page 2.

The people who help make MVCC successful

The College continued to honor its employees who have given so much of themselves to the institution and the students over the years.

This week's honorees for 10 years of service are Gretchen Tyoe from the Dorm Corporation's Penfield Residence Hall, Paul McBee from the Dorm Corporation's Penfield Residence Hall, and Thomas Collins from Security.



From Business Office is John James, 30 years.

For 15 years, are Yixiong (Shawn) Liang from Humanities and Leslie Goerner from Humanities; while 20 years was marked for Bill Zogby from Humanities and Stephen Pedde from Security.

Duane Isenberg from Art department, Michael Donaruma from the Business Office, Debra O'Donnell from the Business Office and Richard Zaklukiewicz from the Business Office, were honored for 25 years while John James from Business Office celebrated 30 years.

Sam Drogo of Life Science has been with MVCC for over 35 along with Toni Carbone from the President's Office who has been with the College for 44 years.



From Humanities is William Zogby, 20 years.



From Life Sciences is Sam Drogo, over 35 years.



From the Business Office are Michael Donaruma, Debra O'Donnell and Richard Zaklukiewicz with 25 years each.



Gretchen Tyoe from the Dorm Corporation's Penfield Residence Hall, 10 years



From Security Thomas Collins, 10 years; and also from Security is Stephen Pedde, 20 years.



Paul McBee from the Dorm Corporation's Penfield Residence Hall, 10 years.

MVCC Spring Institute to focus on faculty

On Friday, Jan. 15, MVCC will host its annual Spring Institute with a focus on fun. The goal will be to develop faculty and professional staff's skills in an environment that is engaging, collegial, and productive for participants as well as the students we all serve.

"The good stuff, best practices, professional experiences and forums for constructive exchange can't help but continue to grow us toward even more significant impacts upon our students and community," said David Katz, associate professor and co-host of Spring Institute. "All our presenters are committed to practicing what we preach in our Spring Institute workshops, with audience engagement, active learning, and fun. The goal is for this to be both enjoyable and enlightening."

The Institute will feature a lineup of workshops open to all members of the MVCC community. Topics geared primarily toward faculty will anchor the day's events. Faculty and staff alike are welcome to sign up for as many sessions as their work schedules will allow. All Academic Centers are encouraged to foster participation by a substantial number of their faculty, as are non-academic offices that directly serve students. Offices that expect heavy student traffic should maintain adequate coverage throughout the day.

Advance signups are encouraged; the signup form is at www.mvcc.edu/training/Spring_institute/. Registrations will be accepted right up to the start time of each workshop, or until seats are all filled. A casual lunch will be held in the IT Lobby from 12:30–1:00 p.m.

The day's scheduled workshops are:

10:30-11:45 a.m.

David Katz "Classroom Management," IT 225: Get Them On Your Side! For anyone who feels that it's like herding cats in the classroom, this workshop will cover time-tested principles to create a classroom atmosphere that is sane, enjoyable, and conducive to student motivation and learning.

Norma Chrisman "Introduction to Smart Boards," AB 261: Get the scoop on the latest technology sweeping the education nation. With new "Smart Board" capability in many classrooms, this workshop will provide the basic tools to start incorporating the boards into teaching.

Randall VanWagoner and Don Kelly "How Can We Teach 'em If They Can't Sit Still?" IT 216: We're challenged to incorporate new technologies, alternative classroom designs and methods of

presentation, but most of us still teach in a classroom reminiscent of long ago. Join in the conversation on how MVCC's classroom environment can be improved.

Tom Capraro and Joe Woodrow "Mapping Your Way to Classroom Success," IT 150: Just as a GPS helps drivers get where they want to go, concept mapping helps students navigate ideas to achieve educational goals. This hands-on seminar will teach the basics of concept mapping and MVCC's tools for using it, with real-life examples of its applications in the presenters' biology classrooms.

Jennifer Boulanger "Learning Communities and Student Retention: An Interactive Workshop," IT 224: This session will share colleagues' experiences with learning communities in the College's fall 2009 pilot and to explore ways that linking courses can enhance the classroom experience for faculty and students. This workshop will acquaint participants with the learning community model and demonstrate the benefits of learning community participation for students and faculty

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Idahlynn Karre, Ph.D. "Keynote Plenary Session," Theater: Busy, Noisy, and Powerfully Effective: Cooperative Learning in the College Classroom. This educational expert will deliver an engaging session on active learning. Dr. Karre will "walk the talk" as she shares these practical methods to facilitate learning in our classrooms.

12:30–1:00 p.m.

Casual lunch, IT Lobby: Pizza, wings, veggies and dip, cookies, beverages and lots of music,

1:00 – 2:15

David Katz "Emotional Intelligence, Student Efficacy and Student Success," IT 216: Have you ever wished you could change your students' attitudes? You can! Faculty as leaders within their classrooms have a profound impact upon the emotional state of their students. This workshop will explore ways of using that reality to influence student success.

Student Panel "The Student Experience at MVCC: The Experts Speak," IT 225: What is the student experience at MVCC really like? A panel of students will address their experience at MVCC including classroom and online learning, academic advising and campus life, and what really works when it comes to motivating students and getting them engaged in learning at college.

Kim Evans-Dame "Best Practice Recruitment and Hiring Practices," IT 224: By serving on screening committees,

PA Luncheon date change

Message from Alison Doughtie and David Katz

Due to a scheduling conflict with the College's Professional Development Day, the Professional Association luncheon has been rescheduled to Thursday, January 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the MV Commons.

If you've already sent an electronic RSVP and the new date for the PA Luncheon works for you, you don't need to do anything more. If you haven't sent an RSVP, or if you have a conflict with the new date, please RSVP at <http://mvccpa.org/surveys/luncheon.cfm>.

current employees play an important role: selecting our future colleagues. This session is designed as a refresher course for those who have served previously and satisfies training requirements for those who wish to serve in the future. This session will educate participants about the overall process, provide recent updates, and cover process improvements to enhance participants' satisfaction and effectiveness.

Jim Lynch "iTunes U and Youtube EDU," IT 219: Realtime multimedia can play a crucial role in the classroom. This introduction to MVCC's existing YouTubeEDU and iTunesU sites will show you how to incorporate these and other web applications into the classroom experience.

Tamara Mariotti "Teaching to Autism and Asperger," IT 227: More than ever, students are presenting with diagnoses of Asperger Syndrome and autism. For young people and adults, this can make college a trying experience—and for professors who aren't prepared, trying to help can be overwhelming. This workshop will discuss trends and available accommodations with support from speakers including Andy Lopez-Williams, MD, Ph.D., founder and director of ADHD and Autism Advocates in Utica; staff from the MVCC Disability Services Office; and a viewing of the DVD "Understanding Asperger Syndrome: A Professor's Guide."

Hawks enjoyed successful Fall season

The 2009 fall sports season was another successful venture for the Hawks with many of the College's athletes earning All-American status. The following is a roundup of how the Hawks' seasons went.



Men's Soccer: The men's soccer team, under the direction of Bob Gould in his 31st season as head coach, finished its season with an 11-6 overall record and was undefeated at home. The Hawks were seeded third in the Region III Tournament, where they won their quarter-final match-up against Finger Lakes CC, 2-0. In the semifinals, they were defeated by North Country CC, 4-2. The Hawks were led by Aubrey Brown, second team All-American, first team All-Region and All-Conference; Oraine Pringle, second team All-Region; and Dan Cain, Steve Wilday, and Brandon Butts as honorable mention All-Region.

Women's Soccer: The women's soccer team finished its season with an 18-4 record under the direction of head coach Steve Senior in his 14th season with the team. The Hawks were undefeated in Mountain Valley Conference. The team was seeded second in the Region III Tournament, where the Hawks hosted and defeated Jefferson CC, 5-3, the semifinal round. They then beat Finger Lakes CC, 3-2, in overtime to win the Region III, B Championship. It was the fourth regional championship for the program in the past seven years. The Hawks qualified for the NJCAA National Championship by defeating Nassau CC, 3-0, in the District Championship. At the national tournament, they lost to the eventual national champions, Richland College from Texas by a score of 3-0. They rebounded the next day to dominate Genesee CC, 4-1, to finish third. The Hawks were led by second team All-American and first team All-Conference and All-Region selection Samantha Spohler; first team All-Conference and second team All-Region selections Nicole Dinitto and Andrea Zabek; and first team All-Conference Kalynn Birdsall.

Volleyball: Under the direction of first-year head coach

Michelle Scranton, the volleyball team finished its season with a 7-20 record. The team placed second in the Mountain Valley Conference. The Hawks were led All-Conference selection Kaitlin DeLett.

Men's Cross Country: The men's cross country team, under the direction of head coach Gary Parker in his 20th year with the program, finished its season with a 45-8 record against two-year colleges. The team finished second in the Mountain Valley Conference and third at the Region III and NJCAA National Championships. This coupled with the women's team second place finish at nationals placed the cross country program as the co-recipient of the coveted Pepsi Cup - awarded to the college with the best combined men and women's finish at the national championships. Todd Butters, who was second team All-American and first team All-Conference, and Garrett Parker, who was third team All-American, led the Hawks.

Women's Cross Country: The women's cross country team finished its season with a 47-4 record against two-year college competition under the direction of head coach Gary Parker. The Hawks came in second at the NJCAA National Championship, Region III, and the Mountain Valley Conference. Hannah Hoffman was the individual Mountain Valley Conference and Regional champion and first team All-American. Cassie White was first team All-Conference, All-Region and All-American, and Michelle Page was first team All-Conference and All-Region, second team All-American to lead the Hawks.

Overall Summary for MVCC athletes:

- 9 - All-Conference Awards
- 11 - All-Region III Awards
- 7 - All-American Awards
- 1 - Mountain Valley Conference Championship
- 1 - Region III Championship
- 4 - Region III Final Four Selection/Finish
- 1 - Mountain Valley Conference "Player of the Year"
- 1 - Region III "Player of the Year"
- 128-42 - Overall Fall Sports Record (.753 winning percentage)

Phi Beta Lambda helps Holly Days liven holidays for area children

The Phi Beta Lambda Chapter at MVCC collected over 150 toys and \$500 for the Holly Days - Christmas For Children toy drive. This is the second year that Phi Beta Lambda organized a toy drive.

Toys were donated on the Utica and Rome campuses then presented to members of Holly Days, which is based out of Ilion, for distribution throughout Oneida, Herkimer and parts of Otsego counties the Mohawk Valley.

Phi Beta Lambda is the Business Club at MVCC. Presenting the toys to representatives of Holly Days was Megan Fitzgerald, president of Phi Beta Lambda, and MVCC instructor Robert Huyck who is an advisor to the club.

Representing Holly Days were Howard Culver and Mike Caporale.

"This is a big thing to make sure that every kid has a present under the tree on Christmas morning no matter what the family's financial situation is," said Huyck.



MAKING CHRISTMAS A BIT BRIGHTER - Members of Phi Beta Lambda helped collect over 150 toys and \$500 for the annual toy drive held by Holly Days which will be distributed to children throughout the Mohawk Valley. From left are: Megan Fitzgerald, president of Phi Beta Lambda; Howard Culver, Holly Days helper; Mike Caporale, Holly Days Board Member; Robert Huyck, MVCC instructor and club advisor; Dawson McDermott, Assistant Director of Student Service Center which hosted the toy drive.

MVCC surpasses goal for United Way Campaign

For the third consecutive year, the faculty and staff at Mohawk Valley Community College answered the call of the community by increasing the amount of money donated to the United Way of the Valley and the Greater Utica Area.

In spite of the community's tough economic times, MVCC employees raised \$14,300 from 117 donors. This was an increase of 38 percent over the total collected by MVCC for the 2008 United Way Fund Campaign.

"MVCC cares deeply about this community," said MVCC President Dr. Randall VanWagoner. "The faculty and staff really rallied to serve the community and support those most in need. I'm proud to be part of a community-focused organization such as MVCC. Exceeding our own campaign goal in this manner is a wonderful accomplishment for the College."

The success of this year's campaign can be attributed to the institution's decision to implement a new fund-raising procedure in collaboration with the United Way. MVCC combined its internal United Way campaign with the College Foundation's Annual and Access Fund campaigns and the faculty and staff at MVCC responded favorably. The results of this technique exceeded expectation as the number of faculty and staff participating rose from 76 to 117, a 52 percent increase.

"In bad economic times, community colleges give people a place to retrain and develop new skills. We are the people who



The United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area was presented a check for \$14,300 as the contribution to this year's campaign from Mohawk Valley Community College. From left are: Phil Hayne, Executive Director of the United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area; Deanna Ferro, Institutional Advancement Events Coordinator; Frank DuRoss, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement; and MVCC President Dr. Randall VanWagoner.

should be giving and by the results of this year's drive, I would say we have," said Professor Bill Perrotti, representative to the United Way Campaign Cabinet.



COLLEGE COMMUNITY'S GENEROSITY - Terry Kipers, Assistant Coordinator at the Child Care Center, and Jerylann (Jeri) George, Director of Child Care Services, organize the many gifts provided by members of the College community which were distributed to the children at the Kiddie Campus.

Submit
information for
Communitas
to Rich Haubert at
rhaubert@mvcc.edu

Kiddie Campus sends out a thank you to all

The College's Kiddie Campus would like to extend a warm and sincere "thank you" to all of those who participated in the Holiday Helpers Program.

With over 30 College employees providing gifts for the children, the true spirit of the holiday was obvious with one glance of their charitable offerings. Parents were overwhelmed with joy and your kindness is so appreciated.

Thank you again for all the support.



COLLEGE ART INITIATIVE - David Bolinski makes sure the photographs he just hung in the third floor lobby of Payne Hall are level. The College's Gallery Committee, in conjunction with the Faculty Select Student Art Show, selected the top ten works of art which will be hung throughout the MVCC campuses. Students have the option to accept the purchase award which are then added into MVCC's endowment collection. These three are: 1: "Russell" by Luke Emrich; 2: "Changing Climate" by Joshua Reach; 3: "Utica Crossing" by Luke Emrich.

Przybycien accreditation visit takes him to United Arab Emirates

As a member of the accreditation commission for TAC-ABET (Technology Accreditation Commission – Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology), Frank Przybycien has been able to travel to some interesting places.

His latest travels took him for six days to the United Arab Emirates, where two universities are seeking TAC-ABET accreditation.

“It was an amazing place. In Dubai, every skyscraper had a different design and shape and they were creating whole cities,” said Przybycien. “And in the Abu Dhabi emirate, which was just a couple hours drive, it was a completely different atmosphere with everything being lush and green. You wouldn’t expect to see so much foliage in a desert region.”

The United Arab Emirates is made up of seven regions or states, known as emirates. The UAE is located on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf.

Przybycien found the education system is based after the American model, which is part of the reason the universities are seeking TAC-ABET certification. The universities’ Civil Engineering curriculum is identical to that at MVCC, according to Przybycien.

“All the courses are taught in English using the TAC-ABET accreditation plan,” said Przybycien. “One of the most interesting things which happened during the site visit was that the class was using Dave McCarthy’s soils book, “Essentials of

Soil Mechanics and Foundations.”

McCarthy is a retired MVCC professor.

Przybycien has been a program evaluator and a member of TAC-ABET since 1982.

Przybycien says it was quite a cultural experience as there is no sign of recession



ON THE WIND - This is the Burj Al Arab Hotel in the Dubai region of the United Arab Emirates.



BIRD OF A DIFFERENT FEATHER - Frank Przybycien holds a falcon on his arm during his site visit to a university in the Dubai region of the United Arab Emirates.

in Dubai. There are currently 1,900 projects underway with each project consisting of a multitude of major structures, buildings and infrastructure. The country was spending \$665 billion to develop itself into a destination spot of the world, says to Przybycien.

Przybycien was also struck by the clear cut classes of society in the UAE. There are the citizens who were born of native blood in the country, the recruited professional workers who manage the operations and keep everything running, and then the manual labor workers who are mostly foreigners from less developed countries.

Przybycien will be preparing his report on the two universities over the next few months, but his trip has left an amazed impression on him about the UAE.

MVCC to close for Ajar Period, Dec. 24 through Jan. 3

Employees at the College are reminded that MVCC will be closed for its annual Ajar Period, December 24 through January 3. Employees are encouraged to record outgoing voice mail greetings and use e-mail away messages to indicate that the College will reopen on Monday, January 4 at 8:30 a.m.

Those employees who have plans to work during the Ajar Period should, in advance, discuss specific expectations with their supervisors. If any employees do report to work when the College is closed they should notify their supervisors and call Security to notify that workplaces will be occupied that day.



Have a safe and joyous Holiday Season

Celebration of Success creates unity

The second annual Fall "Celebration of Success" event was once again a hit while being even bigger and better than last December.

This year's event was attended by 223 MVCC employees with every department of the College being represented.



SANTA JACK? - Jack Susenburger gets into the spirit of the season.

The festivities included music provided by DJ "Kenny The Promo Guy" while Sodexo did a wonderful job of providing food and beverages. The menu featured a sushi display with Crab and Avocado California Roll, and Shrimp Mocki Roll as well as Sicilian Sausage Crostinin,

cheese and crackers, and fresh fruit displays.

The basket raffle raised \$900 with \$450 being donated to the Utica Rescue Mission and the other \$450 being donated to the



GATHERING WITHOUT THE KIDS - Members of the College's Kiddie Campus enjoy comradeship while listening to music. From left are, Holly Lambert, Terry Kipers, Ava Tomaino, Robin Saxe, Diane Nobles, and Jerylann George.

Team MVCC seeks volunteers to help at the Rescue Mission

The Rescue Mission of Utica is looking for volunteers to help serve and deliver meals to those in need on Christmas Day. The Mission is hoping to get at least 20 volunteers to help with kitchen shifts from 1 p.m.–3 p.m., with meal deliveries beginning at 10:30 a.m.

If unable to volunteer, but would like to help the Rescue Mission this Holiday Season, please consider a donation. The Rescue Mission of Utica currently needs the following items:

- Sweatshirts – sizes L-3XL
- Winter Hats & Gloves
- Men and Women socks
- Men's briefs – sizes M-XXL
- Men's t-shirts – sizes M-XXL
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Combs, Razors, Soap, Shampoo & Conditioner

For more information or to volunteer/donate please contact Brandon Shaw, MVCC College Outreach, via email at bshaw@mvcc.edu.



STRENGTHENING BONDS - David Katz, Paul Halko and John Bullis joked and laughed while exchanging stories.

Rome Rescue Mission. The Rescue Mission was chosen by everyone who took part in the raffle.

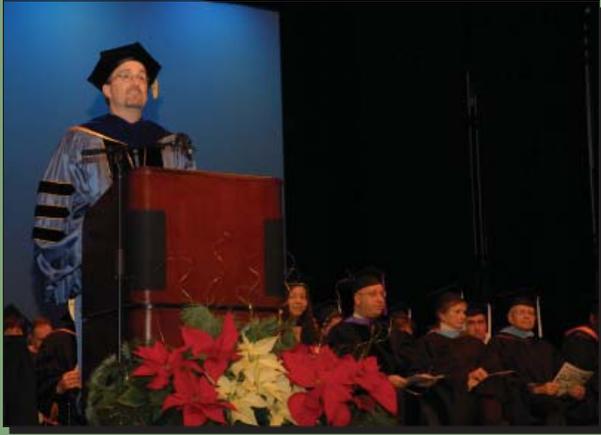
Baskets were donated by Institutional Advancement, Irish Festival, Counseling, Utica/Rome Libraries, Center for Language and Learning Design, Employee Recognition Committee, Geri Sultenfuss, Resident Life/Student Activities/ASC, President's Office, Community Outreach, Center for Corporate and Community Education, and Center for Social Science and Business Information Sciences

Other baskets were donated by the Vice President for Learning and Academic Affairs Office, Center for Life and Health Sciences, Health Services, Advisement, Resident Life/Student Activities/ASC, Community Outreach, Center for Mathematics, Engineering, Physical Sciences and Applied Technology (STEM), Hospitality Program, Escoffier Club, Emily Hantsch, and the Rome Campus Associate Vice President's Office.



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY - MVCC was recently awarded the Sheldon Storrier Bellringer Group of the Year award for its participation in last year's Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. As part of the campaign, MVCC employees ran the bell at Sangertown Mall while many of the College's students volunteered to ring the bell throughout the holiday season, including Black Friday. Other acts of good will included Mary Ellen Hart's "gift tree" to the Salvation Army, fulfilling 27 "angel lists," providing countless toys and articles of clothing and the College's "Celebration of Success" event raised another \$1,500 in donations to the Salvation Army. In the photo are: MVCC President Dr. Randall VanWagoner, Sandy Cummings, Coordinator of Student Activities; Patty Fox, Director of Strategic Initiatives; MVCC student Robert Day; Steve Merren, Honorary Chair; and Captain Frank Picciotto of the Salvation Army.

An Evening of Celebration



Heather Guido of Utica accepts flowers from her boyfriend and best friend.



Charlene Rivera of Deerfield cheers after receiving her diploma.



Graduates wait in line before the procession begins.



Christine Benedetto of Rome and her mother pose for a picture with a picture of her father.



Michael Melendez of Utica looks into the crowd after receiving his diploma.



Eva-Marie Tobin of Utica addresses her fellow graduates.



Maureen Chery of New York City smiles after receiving her diploma.