



AB General's face lift well received

There's a new look to the lobby of the Academic Building on the Utica Campus, with the renovation of the AB General, and it is being well received.

"The work which has been done makes a huge difference visually and has created more space in order for us to offer a greater variety," said Jim Suriano, General Manager of Sodexo Food Services. "Previously, everything was crammed into one room."

The renovations have also allowed Mary Waters to come out of the closet after 20 years. "At first I wasn't sure how I was going to like it. But now, I have all this room with the sun shining in. I love it," said Mary Waters, who has been the face of the AB General for two decades.

The renovations took place over Spring Break. AB General moved from the old location to the other side of the lobby, where the vending machines once stood. The area was expanded further with the removal of an old wood wall, which was replaced with counter space where patrons can sit and eat.

The vending machines were moved out of the AB lobby and placed in the



former copy room, where a new floor was installed and walls painted.

"Before, Mary had just one refrigerator for all her sandwiches, salads, drinks, creamers and everything else. She was really limited in the variety of beverages and other items she could offer," said Mr. Suriano. "Now there's dedicated refrigerators for storage, along with a separate display case and a double-door cooler for even more space."

The display case has enabled AB General to offer an expanded list of items - from sandwiches to salad to fruit cups. "Before you had to ask what was available, but now customers can see what we have," said Mr. Suriano.

And the new look has been very well received. In the second week alone, there were almost 500 more customers than the average over the first four weeks of the Spring semester. This trend has continued throughout the semester which has forced Sodexo to bring in additional part-time help to keep up with demand in the morning.

Coming in the Fall, AB General will begin accepting credit cards and Hawk Dollars.

These renovations were funded by the Commission Account, where Sodexo gives back five percent of every dollar spent at the College to cover the cost of facility improvements.

Dr. Galaty to give Phi Theta Kappa lecture

Phi Theta Kappa Honors will host a lecture by Dr. Michael Galaty on the topic "Archaeological Evidence for the Origins Of Affluence." This lecture will be held Monday, May 4, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 225 of the Information Technology Building.

The archaeological origins of affluence can be traced to the Neolithic ("New Stone") Age, the period (beginning circa 6,000 BC) during which hu-

man beings ruled the world over domesticated plants and animals.

The transition to agriculture and settled village life may be implicated as well. It was also during the Neolithic age that our ancestors first created systems of social stratification.

These new social hierarchies depended on differential control of surplus goods, land, specialized economies, and trade.

If today affluence seems paradoxical, the original paradox is that humans gave up hunting and gathering at all. Settled farmers worked harder and were less healthy than their hunter-gatherer forebears and neighbors.

In this seminar, we will investigate and discuss the first paradox of affluence: why humans leave millions of years of egalitarian social relations behind?

Dana Higgins awarded 'Friend of the Community College' honor

MVCC Foundation Board member Dana Higgins was recently awarded the Friend of the Community College award from The New York Community College Trustees of the State and City Universities of New York.

Established in 1976, the awards program recognizes extraordinary leadership and achievement, dedicated and effective service, and commitment to community as models of excellence in New York State's community colleges.

In addition to his current position on

the MVCC Foundation Board, Dana Higgins spent 11 years as a member of the College's Board of Trustees. In 1974, he was instrumental in successfully persuading MVCC's Board of Trustees, Oneida County government, and the City of Rome that a branch campus for MVCC was needed. The Rome site was established on Floyd Avenue, and MVCC – Rome is currently a thriving campus.

As an advocate for accessible higher learning, Mr. Higgins worked with six

community leaders to create and promote the Rome College Foundation (RCF). The goal of the MVCC Foundation is to develop, advocate and offer a wide variety of college programs for all area residents. As funds grow through grants, donations and bequests, the Foundation continues to provide scholarships, awards, and grants.

The award was presented on Friday, March 27, as part of the of NYCCT's 55th Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Niagara Falls.

CSTEP student reaches above and beyond

Diana DeJesus is a second year student at MVCC, graduating next week with her Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. She is an avid participant in the MVCC Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) where her colors have truly shown through by her dedication to success, work ethic and commitment to her education.



DeJesus

CSTEP is proud to have such a student involved in the program serving as a role model for her fellow CSTEP students as well as MVCC's student body.

According to Professor David Katz, "Diana is a joy to teach and an inspiration to me. She has a core of strength and resiliency which is very admirable. Diana has pursued her lofty academic goals in the face of many obstacles.

Throughout her career the one constant has been her kind, generous and ethical approach to her studies, her fellow classmates and her professors. It is her fine character combined with her intelligence which will lead her to become a person who really makes a positive contribution in her chosen profession."

"Diana is a pleasure to have in the classroom, and she has grown into an even more mature, responsible, and sensible woman Diana has a tremendous amount of drive. She may not be able to tell exactly what it is that she wants,

but she knows that it is something special, something important, and something that will not come easy. The ability to recognize the challenges and the promises of what lies ahead is part of what gives Diana that extra "sparkle" that we've come to know...that we look forward to, and that we will miss." - Statement by Professor Carolyn D'Argenio

Diana has been an exceptional participant in the CSTEP program, meeting all of the requirements of the program. One of the requirements was an internship completed with the Oneida County District Attorney's Office.

She has also been accepted to the Sophomore Summer Institute (SSI) for Law at Northern Illinois University, the premiere pre-law program for undergraduate students seeking to attend law school. She was one of 30 students chosen out of hundreds nation-wide that were accepted to this four week long program this summer.

Participation in SSI is a critical initial investment in the future of a law student and the gains are exponential. In addition, she was chosen to be the MVCC student ambassador at the annual CSTEP state-wide conference.

In addition to her academic work at MVCC, Diana qualified for Track Nationals in the 100mHurdles, Javelin, High Jump and Long Jump. She also runs in the 4x100m relay.

Diana has been accepted to SUNY Brockport in the fall to continue her studies in Criminal Justice. Her ultimate goal is to be a lawyer.

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

Engineering Sciences students honored

The high standards of MVCC's engineering programs were spotlighted this Spring as three students were presented \$60,000 worth of scholarships. All three will graduate on May 15, with Associate in Science Degrees in the field of Engineering Science.

Rome native George Perry was presented RPI's Joseph Smith Engineering and Science Medal which comes with a \$10,000 annual scholarship. He was presented his award on February 19 during a banquet at the Rose Lawn in New York Mills.

Thomas Urtz of Verona received a Leadership Scholarship which came with an \$11,000 annual scholarship at Clarkson University. Also receiving a Leadership Scholarship worth \$9,000 annually is Nick McCormick from Oneida. Both students will be continuing their educations in the Fall at Clarkson University.

MVCC's Engineering, Computer and Physical Science Department was also recently recognized for its "Engineering Excellence" over the past 60 years of educating engineers in the Mohawk Valley. This award was presented by Mike Joseph, President of the Mohawk Valley Executive Engineering Counsel.



ENGINEERING SCHOLAR - George Perry of Rome was presented RPI's Joseph Smith Engineering and Science Medal which comes with a \$10,000 annual scholarship.

MVCC Campus Events

Monday, May 4

SNO: Popcorn Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 9:00 am
Muslim Student Assoc, Alumni College, Room 203, 2:00 pm
Fire God, Alumni College, Room 222, 3:00 pm
Chess Club Games, Room 114, Alumni College, 3:30 pm
Student Congress, Room 212, Alumni College, 3:30 pm
Phi Theta Kappa, Room 225, Information Technology, 5:00 pm
CCED: Tai Chi Class, Alumni College, 5:30 pm
CCED: Ballroom Dancing, Payne Hall Lobby, 7:00 pm
Performance: MVCC Concert Band & Utica College Concert Band, Theater, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, May 5

College Senate, Room 225, Information Technology, 2:00 pm
Muslim Student Assoc, Alumni College, Room 203, 2:00 pm
Acoustic Café: Open Mic Nite, Room 116, ACC, 7:00 pm
Late Night Breakfast, MV Commons, 10:00 pm

Wednesday, May 6

American Heart Association Breakfast, Lobby, Information Technology, 7:00 am
SNO: Popcorn Sale, Academic Building Lobby, 9:00 am
Dental Hygiene Program: Guest Speaker, Plumley Auditorium, 1:30 pm
Muslim Student Assoc, Alumni College, Room 203, 2:00 pm
Exhibit Opening/Reception: "Artfarm," Small Works Gallery, Information Technology, 3:00 pm
Black Student Union, Alumni College, Room 222, 3:00 pm
The Experience, Alumni College, Room 212, 4:00 pm
Landlord Reception, Lobby, Information Technology, 5:00 pm
Keuka College Information Session, Room 220, Information Technology, 5:30 pm

Athletics Banquet, MV Commons, 6:30 pm
Pieceful Gals Quilting Club, Room 209, Plumley Complex, 7:00 pm
Performance: MVCC Concert Band and Utica College Concert Band, Plumley Auditorium, 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 7

Muslim Student Assoc, Alumni College, Room 203, 2:00 pm
Program Board, Alumni College, Room 212, 2:00 pm
Paranormal Investigation Society Alumni College, Room 212, 5:00 pm
Landlord Reception, Plumley Complex Atrium, 5:00 pm
Strategic Gaming Club Alumni College, Room 212, 6:00 pm
Gay/Straight Alliance, Alumni College, Room 207, 6:00 pm
CCED: Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 pm
Lecture: "History of the Arsenal House," Plumley Auditorium, 7:00 pm

Friday, May 8

ET&T: NAMCATE Workshop, Room 116, Alumni College, 8:00 am
Social Science Reception, Room 300, Payne Hall, 11:30 am
Psychology Club, Alumni College, Room 212, 12:00 pm
Muslim Student Assoc, Alumni College, Room 203, 2:00 pm
Latino Student Union, Alumni College, Room 212, 3:00 pm
Faxon-St. Luke's Graduation, Theater, 5:00 pm
CCED: Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 9

Third Annual Utica Open Chess Tournament, Room 225, Information Technology, 8:30 am



THOSE CLOWNS - Members of the Syrian Shriners Clowns paid a visit to the Kiddie Campus to entertain the children by making balloon art. Visiting were JoJo, right, and KuKu, left. Above, Isabella Lambert shows her excitement of receiving a flower balloon.

Just clowning around at Kiddie Campus



Message from the President

Greetings,

As you may have read in the April 17th *Communitas* article (attached below), the College's website is being redesigned. As we move from the technical phase (moving files and servers around) to the design phase, much thought is being given to the overall image and design as to how the College is represented.

This process is informed by the external community focus groups that were conducted last spring and the branding discussions that were facilitated with close to 20 committees and workgroups at the College last fall.

These sessions all explored community perceptions of the College and what we believed was our promise and what we stand for as MVCC.

An important component of this significant endeavor is the revisiting of our College logo to consider "freshening" the logo. Designworks is the firm redesigning the website and they have been asked to provide us with a series of new logo designs for consideration.

The next step is to get some feedback on the various designs. While we are exploring options to solicit student feedback, I have scheduled the following times and invite faculty and staff to attend one of the following.

May 6 – 1:30-2:30 p.m. **ACC 218**

May 8 - 1:00-2:00 p.m. **AB226**

May 11 - 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Rome Campus **PC 152**

May 13 – 10:30-11:30 a.m. **AB 157**

Summer lunch breaks for Clerical Staff

According to an agreement the College reached with UPSEU in November 1999, lunch breaks for clerical employees with one-hour lunch breaks will change for the summer. From Memorial Day through the Friday preceding the day on which faculty return, clerical staff who take one-hour lunch breaks may take one-half hour lunch breaks. They will return to one-hour lunches on Monday August 17.

- The agreement deals with lunch breaks only. Offices will remain open as usual and supervisors will schedule staff as needed to provide coverage.
- The change in lunch breaks applies only to employees represented by UPSEU. This provision does not cover professional staff or administrators.
- Those with half-hour lunch breaks may find the time of the lunch break has to change to provide coverage in the office.
- The only people who may retain half-hour lunch breaks after August 17 are those who had half-hour lunches on October 21, 1999.
- Staff who wish to remain on a one-hour lunch break may do so if they and their supervisor agree.