



MVCC staff, faculty and program recognized for great education

Once again, members of the MVCC community were honored for their work in education at the Genesis Group's Fourth Annual Celebration of Education during a Nov. 19 reception at the Hotel Utica.



Overrocker

Being honored from the College this year was Kim Overrocker, Michael Sorrentino and Frank Przybycien.

The College's Diversity and Global View Program was also honored by the Genesis Group for its work on promoting understanding and tolerance of the multicultural community Oneida County has become in recent years.



Sorrentino

Overrocker was recognized for her dedication to youth in literacy and English as Second

Language; Career Exploration work with Oneida County BOCES; and her service as Youth Director for the YWCA and Case Manager for Madison-Oneida BOCES.

"Kim is a tremendous asset to the College because she is so committed, so unwaveringly positive, so energetic and enthusiastic," said Denise DiGiorgio, Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students. "Her obvious dedication is felt and appreciated by her students, who respond by participating in anything she initiates. She really embodies the 'spirit

of service' that is so often discussed; she's a role model to her students and her peers."

Overrocker took up the role of STEP Program Coordinator in 2008 and was promoted to become the Director of School and Community Outreach in the fall of 2009. Her work includes forward thinking in program development with STEP students, being the point person with UCSD for all Proctor/MVCC programs, collaboration with faculty on behalf of students, and work with community agencies to understand emerging educational needs.



Coleman



Przybycien

Sorrentino is the assistant professor in charge of the welding program at MVCC. During his time at the College, he has enabled his students to break out of the box by envision the many avenues their skills can take them. Along with his work in the welding club, his students have provided community service to dozens of projects including taking part in the beautification of downtown Utica and creation of public artwork at the Hage & Hage law firm.

In that effort, several of MVCC's welding students took part in the dedication of an iron tree made from scrap metal in the College's shop. This sculpture is to be

the first of many expected to be donated and exhibited in downtown Utica.

Przybycien leads the College's Community Restoration Innovation Team. In this role, he connects faculty, students, and community via his extensive networks across the college and the community. In his longstanding role as a faculty member he has become known for creating service learning opportunities.

The College's DGV program, which was the brainchild of Beverly Quist, Sarah Coleman, Ph.D., and Sandra Engel, Ph.D., has been very successful at broadening the horizons of MVCC students.

"In the classroom and the broader college community, Mohawk Valley Community College emphasizes an appreciation of the differences in individuals," said Coleman, who was on hand to accept the award. "These include but are not limited to race, ethnicity, cultural background, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, academic abilities and interests, age, religious beliefs, and physical ability. The College recognizes that our students need to understand that in today's world, different cultures interact and must be appreciated. We hold a global view which perceives the inter-connectedness of technological, ecological, economic, social, health and political issues that must be understood and addressed from an international perspective. Students will develop an intercultural awareness and a respect for other points of view, and will be prepared to be participants in an increasingly global community."

What are people saying about our valued co-workers?

Here are examples of what people are saying about some of our inaugural "Heart of the Hawk" and "Pride of the Hawk" nominees. The next round of nominations are due Jan. 12; call 792-5307 for information.

- **Heart:** Dale Horton – "His enthusiasm for teaching is apparent...he does not just give us the answer, he helps us find it!"
- **Pride:** Patty Antanavice – "She has the skill to assist students with compassion, respect, and knowledge. The exceptional service she presents to students is evident in the way [they] respond to her. She makes them feel confident and prepared...."

BSU, Caribbean Club host dinner for those less fortunate

Members of the Black Student Union and Caribbean Club joined forces with Sodexo Campus Food Services to sponsor a pre-Thanksgiving dinner for approximately 32 people from Insight House and Mount Caramel/Blessed Sacrament Church.

The dinner was held in the MVCC Commons on Tuesday, November 17. The College's Dance Club performance for those in attendance.

There were approximately 20 members of the BSU and Caribbean Club who helped prepare the food and serve it.

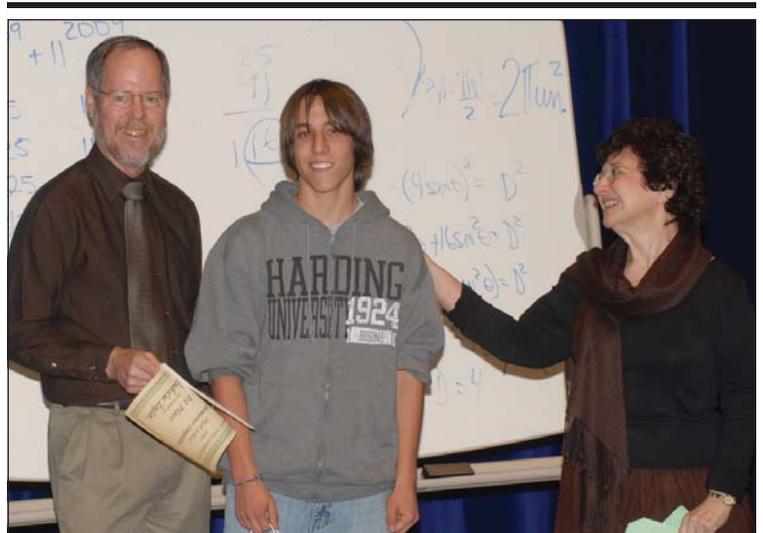
There were also three gift baskets given away to families in need which contained non-perishable goods.



HELPING HANDS - Above, Jasmine Douglas stirs pot full of soup as Jason Martin of Sodexo Campus Food Service supervises. Right, BSU's Liz Patterson takes some food out of an oven in preparation for the pre-Thanksgiving dinner. Left, Ta'Quell Morris, David McGee, Raliphia Dennis, Brittany Harris and Richard Brown put together baskets which were presented to families for the holiday.



KIDDIE CAMPUS THANKSGIVING - Children, their parents, faculty and staff enjoyed a Thanksgiving luncheon on Tuesday in Room 225 of the Information Technology Building. This has become an annual event with nearly 80 people in attendance to share a holiday meal with the children.



TOP MATH WHIZ - Andrew Taylor from Whitesboro High School won this year's High School Mathematics Competition. Congratulating him is Donald Willner, Dean of the STEM Center, and Maryrose Eannace, Vice President for Learning and Academic Affairs.

New Hartford wins team math competition

New Hartford won the 9th Annual High School Mathematics Competition held in the College Theater on Wednesday, November 18.

Members of the New Hartford team were Arjun Amernath, Majhrur Mohiuddin, Arjun Motta and Aaron Wallace. Team coach is Gary Pelland.

For the individual scoring portion, Whitesboro's Andrew Taylor placed first while Arjun Amernath of New Hartford was second and Dwight Vicks of Clinton High was third.

MVCC Faces: Jason T. LaFountain



Jason T. LaFountain
Admissions Counselor

There is a new face on the front lines of welcoming prospective students to MVCC. Jason T. LaFountain is the College's newest Admissions Counselor, responsible for visiting high schools and getting the good word out about everything MVCC has to offer.

"I'm in the process of mastering all the aspects of an admissions counselor's responsibilities in order to best help future and current students succeed academically," said LaFountain. "Most of my responsibilities are based around admissions recruitment, counseling, enrollment and application review."

LaFountain joined MVCC at the beginning of the Fall semester. This Utica resident earned his bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from the University of Louisville.

Other services he is providing the College is as a volunteer assistant coach for the women's softball team, which one of his favorite sports along with baseball.

His wife is Audrey and his parents are Jim and Cindy LaFountain. He also has two sisters, Cassie and Taryn.

Donate Blood at Dec. 2 Drive



GIVE BLOOD - MVCC Alumni Association will once again be hosting a blood drive on the Utica Campus. The blood drive will take place on Wednesday, December 2, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. in Room 116 of the Alumni College Center. Please contact Marie Kohl at ext. 5340 or MKohl@mvcc.edu to sign up. Each unit of whole blood has the potential to help three hospital patients.

Dispelling Myths about People with Disabilities

By Lynn Igoe

The major barriers to achievement by people with disabilities in our society continue to be attitude barriers, stereotypical thinking, and assumptions about what people can and can't do. The truth is that the range of ability of persons within any disability group is enormous. We need to get rid of our stereotypical images and view each individual as just that: "an individual." Listed below are the kinds of assumptions that can be barriers to employment for persons with disabilities.

Assumption: A person with mental retardation cannot be trained to perform a job as well as an employee without a disability.

Fact: Over two-thirds of the 4,000 participants in Pizza Hut, Inc.'s "Jobs Plus Program" are persons with mental retardation. The current turnover rate among these employees with disabilities is a modest 20% compared to the 150% turnover rate of employees without disabilities.

Assumption: An individual with a psychiatric disability cannot work in a stressful environment where tight timelines have to be met.

Fact: All individuals perceive stress differently and their responses vary. Some individuals with psychiatric disabilities perform effectively in jobs that require specific timelines and structure.

Assumption: A person with a developmental disability and difficulty with fine motor control is unlikely to be able to handle complex operations on the production line of a manufacturing plant.

Fact: A person with this combination of functional limitations was hired for a production line job. The job involved labeling, filling, capping, and packing a liquid product. The only accommodation needed was the creation of a plywood jig that enabled the worker to hold the bottle steady for correct labeling.

Assumption: A person who is blind and has a missing right hand cannot perform a job as a machinist.

Fact: An applicant who lost his vision and right hand persuaded a community college to train him as a machinist and was given a job on a trial basis. From the first day, he broke production records and caused others to do the same. His only modification was to move a lever from the right side of the machine to the left.

Assumption: It is unlikely that a man whose right leg is amputated six inches above the knee can perform the duties of a warehouseman that require loading and unloading trucks, standing, lifting, bending, and delivering supplies to various sections as needed.

Fact: A person with this type of amputation was hired to work in a paper warehouse. He performed the job without any modification. He worked out so well that the company moved him to operating heavy equipment, a log stacker. The company did not have to make any accommodations. He was able to climb ladders and the heavy equipment without any problems.

Phi Beta Lambda toy drive

For the second year in a row, the MVCC's Phi Beta Lambda is sponsoring a toy drive which will benefit the Holly Days, Christmas For Children, Inc.

Toy bins will be placed against the back wall of the Student Service Center on the first floor of Payne Hall and inside the Registrar/Business Office at the Rome Campus. The toys should be new and unwrapped. The drive will end December 11.



**Have a safe and
wonderful Thanksgiving**