



Three receive Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Three students from Mohawk Valley Community College were selected to receive the 2010 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. They are Tatyana Gurina, Alyssa Strife and April Vroman.

"The students we honor have excelled academically and taken advantage of what SUNY has to offer outside the classroom," said Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher. "These students are proven leaders, athletes, artists, community servants and much more. Congratulations to all of the students receiving this award and thank you all for your genuine dedication to student excellence."

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence was created 13 years ago to acknowledge students who have best demonstrated the integration of academic excellence with other aspects of their lives, which include arts, athletics, career achievement, community service, and leadership. Each recipient received a framed certificate and medallion, which is traditionally worn at commencement.

Tatyana Gurina is living the American Dream since immigrating to the United States from Russia at the age of three. Prior coming to MVCC, Gurina maintained a 4.0 GPA as a student in the College's Magnet Bridge Program and worked as a peer mentor at the Science Technology Entry Program (S.T.E.P.) at MVCC. She was selected as a Teen All-Star for her academic and community work.

Having earned MVCC's Presidential Scholarship and the SUNY Diversity



Gurina



Strife



Vroman

Scholarship for her leadership role within the community, Gurina has strived to excel at every endeavor. For the 2009-2010 academic year, she has served as a student representative to the MVCC Board of Trustees. Gurina is an active member of Student Congress and has served as the President of the Liberal Arts and Science Club. As a Liberal Arts & Science - General Studies major, Gurina was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is a resident of Utica and graduate from Proctor High School.

Alyssa Strife was the recipient of MVCC's Presidential Scholarship, which is awarded to the top 10 percent of high school graduates in Oneida County. As a resident of Utica and graduate of Whitesboro High School, Strife is pursuing a career in education as a teacher. She has been a model student who not only excels academically, but is very active in community service as co-captain for her Relay for Life team, donating time through her church to benefit Hope House to deliver meals to the homeless and volunteering as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army. She has also been an annual participant in Utica's Greatest

American Heart Run/Walk.

While at MVCC, she has made the President's List for having a grade point average (GPA) of 3.75 or higher in her first three semesters and is expected to achieve this level of excellence as she graduates this May. Strife was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society on October 20, 2009, and was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship to Utica College.

Along with achieving academic success, **April Vroman** is an excellent example of a student who gives back to her peers in order for them to reach the level of success she has. Vroman has been a peer tutor in human anatomy and physiology in MVCC's Learning Center, a position which requires recognition by her teachers to have the ability to aid others. Other extra-curricular activities of this Utica native and Proctor High School graduate include being a member of the 2008 MVCC Cross Country team that won the NJCAA Region III Championship as well as the NJCAA Nationals.

As a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, as well as being named to the President's List for four semesters, Vroman has served as the secretary for the Student Nurses Organization that supports student nurses in reaching out to their community through the promotion of health and illness prevention workshops. Her volunteer work includes aiding in blood drives, assisting in blood pressure clinics, and health fairs. Vroman will be graduating with an Associate in Applied Sciences in Nursing this May.

College to test emergency notification system

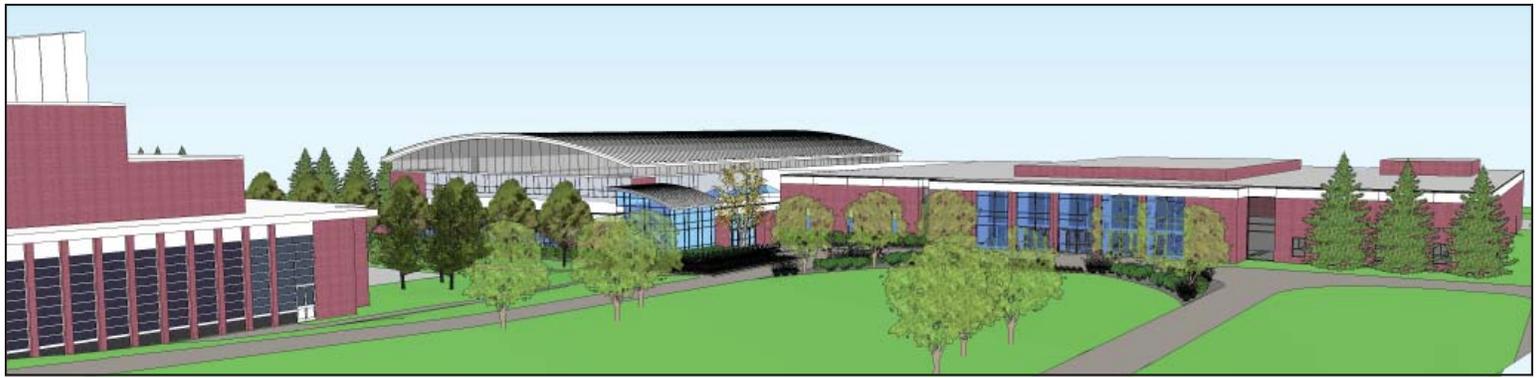
In the effort to provide a safe learning environment, Mohawk Valley Community College will be running a life test of its internal and external emergency notification system on Friday, April 30, at 2:30 p.m., for the Utica Campus.

MVCC's emergency notification system will begin with the sounding of the on-campus siren followed by an announcement over the outside speakers and an audio alert via the internal public address telephone system located in every classroom and office. As part of this test, the College will send out a message over the NY-ALERT system which is operated through the

New York State Emergency Management Office.

MVCC has taken the initiative to notify neighbors of its Utica Campus about the planned test the outdoor emergency notification system. MVCC students, faculty, staff and the public are invited to sign up for NY-ALERT at www.nyalert.gov. Upon hearing the exterior alarm, those who have signed up will receive a notification of the situation via their cellular telephone, house telephone and/or email in the event of a real campus emergency.

If you have questions about the alarm, or the NY-ALERT system, contact the MVCC Communications Office at 792-5330.



Field house construction begins this summer

While the spring semester is quickly coming to an end, it marks the beginning of great things to come. One of the biggest changes occurring this summer will be the groundbreaking for the Jorgensen Athletic Facility Center.

This will occur on the morning of Friday, June 18, and the project is expected to be completed in 18 months. The construction manager for this project is H.R. Beebe while the architectural firm is JMZ Architects.

The Jorgensen Athletic Facility Center will feature the field house and a 5,000 square foot fitness center along with an inviting lobby and restrooms totally approximately 45,000 square feet. The layout of the field house will accommodate

three basketball courts, but the floor will also be lined for use as three volleyball courts or three tennis courts. The courts will be separated by retractable netting. Other uses for the field house will be for soccer, baseball, softball and lacrosse practices along with a walking/running track along the perimeter of the building.

The offices for faculty and coaches will remain where they currently are located as will the "cage." The existing gymnasium, which is approximately 10,840 square feet, will continue to host athletic competitions.

The design of the new field house will have an arched ceiling while the fitness center will have glass looking south onto the quad. The upper level of the field house will have translucent blocks featur-

ing a lighting system which monitors and adjusts automatically to the lighting needs within the structure in order to minimize electricity usage. The lobby will have skylights to take advantage of natural light.

Work to be done on the existing gymnasium building includes upgrading the front entry, replacing and moving the mechanical system for the pool to accommodate athletic offices, replacing the pool skimming system along with inspecting, replacing and re-grouting the pool tiles. Other mechanical upgrades include replacement of the boilers the HVAC and electrical systems.

The lobbies of the current and new buildings will be connected by a "Walk of Fame" honoring team accomplishments.

Alumni Art Show presents awards for 2010

Mohawk Valley Community College selected the winners of the 2010 Alumni Art Show, which is on exhibit in the MVCC Art Department's gallery on the second floor of the Academic Building on the Utica Campus.

The announcement was made Friday, April 20, by Assistant Professor Doug Hydelund (Class of '86) who was show chairman. This event is sponsored by the MVCC Alumni Association.

The 2010 Show Judge was Scott Herron, Creative Director for Designworks Advertising in Syracuse.

This year's winners are:

Graphic Design: Multi-Color

- 1st Place – Garrett Lubertine, '01
- 2nd Place – Edward Walter, '78
- Honorable Mention – Michelle Roberts, '01
- Honorable Mention – Bob Clarke, '74
- Honorable Mention – Justin Palmer, '05

Graphic Design: Limited Color

- 1st Place – Jack DelGado, '86
- 2nd Place – Jack DelGado, '86
- Honorable Mention – Edward Walter, '78
- Honorable Mention – Jack DelGado, '86
- Honorable Mention – Edward Walter, '78

Illustration: Published

- 1st Place – Lawrence Gardinier, '87
- 2nd Place – Bob Clarke, '74
- Honorable Mention – Toshia Hance, '86
- Honorable Mention – Lawrence Gardinier, '87
- Honorable Mention – Danny Mills, '02



ALUMNI ART SHOW - Discussing the work are NYC artist Edward Walter, '78, who presented to students earlier and won three awards; Karen Barnes, '83, a Utica artist, who was a first place winner, and Assistant Professor Scott D. Selden.

Illustration: Unpublished

- 1st Place – Karen Barnes, '83
- 2nd Place – Richard Harvey, '68
- Honorable Mention – Andrew Hunter, '68
- Honorable Mention – Toshia Hance, '86
- Honorable Mention – Jim Vitale, '89

MVCC Faces: Rialda Alibegic



Rialda Alibegic
Instructor

Rialda Alibegic has a goal as an English instructor at MVCC - to help her students gain an appreciation for the dying art of reading.

"I'd like them to leave my class at the end of semester realizing the merits of reading and analyzing literature," said Alibegic. "There are many things I enjoy doing in my free time. Reading, of course, is one of them. I read as much as I can, whenever I can."

This is a trait she has sought to instill her students since joining the MVCC community in September 2009.

This Utica resident earned her Bachelor's in Psychology from Utica College in 2004 and then went on to complete her Master's in Liberal Arts and Sciences with a concentration in Humanities from Utica College in 2009. She is currently serving on the Cultural Events Committee and has volunteered to provide food assistance to the less fortunate during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. "We distributed baskets of food to low income families with children. It was one of the many aspects that I enjoyed," said Alibegic.

When not in the classroom, she is also a Certified Court Interpreter for Bosnian/Croatian language. "While it is not a volunteer service, I do feel it provides some sense of relief for individuals who are not proficient in English accessing community services. I assist them with any paperwork they need to submit or complete while at Family Court," said Alibegic.

Her hobbies, along with reading, include music. Alibegic professes a great appreciation for Bob Dylan, The Beatles and Patti Smith, which inspired her to learn how to play acoustic guitar. While she admits she isn't proficient, Alibegic isn't afraid to get in front of audiences during Open Mic Nights at The Tramontane Café in Utica.

"Though I occasionally find courage to perform, it is a great place for local musicians, poets and other performers to gather and play a rock star for the night," added Alibegic.

Alibegic says she has been very fortunate for the support and encouragement she received in her academic studies from her parents. She has two cats at home.

MVCC EVENTS

Monday, April 26

- 2:30 pm - Airframe & Powerplant Program Graduation, PC Aud
- 3:00 pm - Chess Club: Informal Games, ACC 114
- 5:30 pm CCED: T'ai Chi, ACC 116
- 6:00 pm - MVCAA: Drinking & Driving Program Class, RA 306
- 7:00 pm - CCED: Puttology, ACC 116
- 8:00 pm - Cultural Series Concert: Forever Young,
The World's Greatest Rod Stewart Tribute Show, Theater

Tuesday, April 27

- 6:00 pm - MVCAA: Drinking & Driving Program Class, RA 312
- 7:00 pm - Cultural Series Movie: "The Fourth Kind," Theater
- 7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons

Wednesday, April 28

- 3:00 pm - Softball vs. Finger Lakes CC, Softball Field
- 7:00 pm - Cultural Series Movie: "The Fourth Kind," PC Aud
- 7:00 pm - MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116
- 7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons

Thursday, April 29

- 4:00 pm - Student Activities: Awards Reception, ACC 116
- 5:00 pm - Relay for Life Meeting, IT 225
- 6:00 pm - Cultural Series Lecture: "Oneida Mansion House"
w/Anthony Wonderley, PC Auditorium
- 6:00 pm - Strategic Gaming Club, ACC 212

Friday, April 30

- 8:00 am - Program Board: Spring Fling, Residence Hall Quad
- 8:30 am - Habitat for Humanity, ACC 212
- 2:00 pm - Lecture: Ms. Khanh Nguyen,
Kien Giang Community College, Vietnam, IT 225
- 5:00 pm - Spring Fling, MV Commons/ACC 116
- 8:00 pm - "Theatre of Illusion" w/The Spencers, Theater

Saturday, May 1

- 7:15 am - Ted Moore Run/Walk: Registration, Gym
- 8:00 am - CCED: Motorcycle Driving Learn to Ride, RA 207
- 9:00 am - Ted Moore Run/Walk: Start Time, Outside Gym
- 10:00 am - CSTEP, MV Commons/ACC116
- 12:00 pm - Family Fun Series: Golf & Grill
w/Touring Professional Wes Cupp, PC Lawn
- 2:00 pm - Softball vs. Clinton CC, Softball Field

Sunday, May 2

- 8:00 am - CCED: Motorcycle Driving Learn to Ride, RA 207
- 12:00 pm - Softball vs. North Country CC, Softball Field

Domser attends conference featuring nanotechnology

MVCC's Celia Domser, Director of P-20 STEM Arc, attended the National Science Teachers Convention in Philadelphia, on March 17, 18, and 19. Over 10,000 science teachers from across the country attended the hundreds of workshops, seminars and short courses. They also listened to prominent speakers address the issues at hand for science students and teachers from the elementary to the college level.

Domser attended several sessions on Nano-technology that ranges from Physics and Chemical applications to Bioengineering. This information will be used as part of a grant to NSF which is presently being worked on.

The workshops were held by Georgia Tech, Penn State and the Center for Nanscale Technology.

Domser was one of 40 key science leaders in the country to be invited to a special session with PBS and NOVA to preview new science programs that will be out in the near future. The PBS team asked for feedback from these science leaders before airing of the programs. Anyone interested in NSTA can contact Celia at extension 5521.

Athletes of the Week

Savka Browneski has been swinging the big stick this season for the Hawks' softball team. After going 11-for-23 at the plate for a .608 slugging percentage, Browneski has been selected as MVCC's Athlete of the Week.

Browneski's performance included two doubles, a triple, two stolen bases and five RBIs. The Hawks are now 15-2 overall and 12-2 in Region III play.

This sophomore is a childhood education major who graduated from Massapequa High School.



Browneski

Coach LaFountain gives birth to a boy

First-year softball coach Audrey Rendon LaFountain hit a home run this week as she gave birth to her son, Grady LaFountain, on Wednesday.

This may sound like a routine play, but the birth came on the heels of coaching the Hawks to a doubleheader victory, 6-0 and 7-1, over Onondaga Community College just hours earlier. Grady LaFountain was 20 inches long and 7½ pounds.

This is the first child for her and husband Jason LaFountain, an admissions counselor at MVCC.

Prior to taking the coaching position at MVCC, LaFountain was a four-year starter and four-time all-conference third baseman at Louisville, where she helped the Cardinals to three conference championships, was the 2004 freshman of the year in Conference USA and was Louisville's Female Spring Sport Athlete of the Year in 2007. She also was a Big East Academic All-Star in 2006.

LaFountain was an assistant coach at Louisville in 2008, and played in the National Pro Fastpitch league for three seasons.

She and Jason LaFountain were married in September of 2008, and now live in Whitesboro.

The Hawks are 15-3 going into this weekend's home doubleheader with Monroe Community College.



LaFountain



HOME GROWN MUSIC - MVCC's Bill Dustin performs with daughter Lily as the opening act for the JADA concert.

Cultural Series sets attendance record

The Cultural Series Committee announced this season's events experienced the highest attendance in the college's history. As the 2009 - 2010 Cultural Series/Events and Entertainment season comes to a close, here is a glimpse of attendance figures.

This is the attendance numbers as of this week:

- 134 total events
- 19,846 total attendees [including 'Fireworks Over Utica' sponsored by the Cultural Series]
- 7,649 attendees in first 55 events of the Spring '10' [current] semester
- 12 events remaining
- 3 potential 'keynote' events [sellouts] remaining

"Dare I say that the 2010 - 2011 season is going to be even more impressive than any semester before - yes I do," said Bill Dustin, Events Administrator and Cultural Series Committee co-Chair.

For more information, visit www.mvcc.edu/culture.



Alumni provide a leg up to students

To build on the success of past workshops, the Alumni Office teamed up with the Office of Career, Transfer and Job Placement Services to expose current students to the prospects of success that awaits them after MVCC by hosting an Alumni Career Panel on March 24 in the Information Technology Building.

The Alumni Career Panel consisted of five highly respected and valued alumni, David Mathis, Eleanor Moran, Leah McDonald, Angelo Roefaro and Julie Smith, from many walks of life. The participating alumni shared their experiences, advice and created an opportunity for the students to ask questions at the end of the panel discussion.

The presenters emphasized the importance of enjoying what you are doing and thinking outside the box. They all stated how MVCC provided them opportunities to enjoy diverse subject matters that provided them with the opportunity to experience other ideas.