



## To transform MVCC, master planners seek input

Mohawk Valley Community College's 20-year master planning process went into high gear this week when expert architecture consultants Jim Braddock and Scott Page visited MVCC's Utica campus to discuss their research findings and preliminary site alternatives. They will return to the college March 1-2 for additional open sessions.

The Feb. 8, conversations with senior administrators and the Board of Trustees included Braddock and Page's report on the foundational elements of a plan for the College's next series of capital requests. Factors explored include rapid, recent growth in enrollment; the certainty of a similarly steep decline in the number of high school graduates over the coming decade; and the need to build MVCC's capacity in ways that help the college maintain or increase its market share relative to other community colleges as well as its four-year competitors.

Among their findings, Braddock and Page highlighted data showing that students spend the greatest amount of contact hours by far in the classroom, and thus any capital improvements should focus on the learning environment as a primary target for investment. They then discussed a series of goals to

be considered as any space plan is developed:

1. Multiple strategies should be implemented toward enrollment stability (not greater capacity);
2. Operational efficiencies should be developed prior to potential declines in tuition revenue and government funding;
3. A conservative capital approach is desirable; and
4. To use capital effectively, the college must know with whom it is competing.

To help move the process toward these goals, and to continue their conversation with students, faculty, and staff in all areas of the College, Braddock and Page will host a series of open sessions on Monday and Tuesday, March 1-2, with sessions on both the Rome and Utica campuses as well as a preliminary discussion with members of the County Legislature. Additional details on time and venue will be announced in the coming days.

The architects will also lead a presentation on the status of the master plan at the March Institute, to be held Monday, March 15, before making a presentation to the Board of Trustees that evening on revised preliminary site alternatives.

## MVCC to host instructor from Vietnam

MVCC will be hosting an English teacher from our partner school in Vietnam, Kien Giang Community College, starting after Spring Break through graduation. Nguyen Thi Phuong Khanh is a member of the KGCC Foreign Language Department and has 11 years of teaching experience.

At KGCC she teaches English majors, non-majors, and an English for Children class. She has also taught high school English, been the Vice Director of the Literature and Arts Association of Tan Hiep District and has been the Director of L'Espace Francophone on the KGCC campus. She visited France for three months a few years ago.

Khanh will be working with ESL teachers, giving presentations in classes and visiting businesses, attending local cultural events and seeing American sites. Anyone interested in having her visit a class or with any other ideas about an activity for her should contact Sandy Engel, Ph.D., who is starting to assemble Khanh's schedule. We want to give her a warm welcome and a wonderful time.

An occasional, irregular and very informal singing group is being assembled - she wants to learn some American songs - so please let Sandy know if you are interested in helping out. (You will not be required to sing a solo.)

Whether you sing or not, please plan to attend a reception for her on Monday, March 29 at 2.30 in IT225.



**VIETNAM VISITORS** - Last year, MVCC hosted instructor Nguyen Duy Khang, left, from Vietnam's Kien Giang Community College. This spring, the College will once again play host to a KGCC instructor. This time it will be Nguyen Thi Phuong Khanh, right, from the Foreign Language Department.



**MVCC GOES RED IN ROME** - MVCC employees on the Rome Campus recently went red in support of the American Heart Association's Red Dress campaign. Wearing red are: Sitting - David Nackley, Margy Daly, Mary Jo Thomas, Kathy Kotary, and Susan Halbritter. Standing - Helen Adsit, Barbara Evans, unknown student, Sarah Tierney, Kristina Johnson, Allen Light, and unknown student.

## Team MVCC Fundraising Events

**America's Greatest Heart Run & Walk**  
Saturday, March 6, @ 10:30 am

**Tuesday, February 16**

MVCC Men's Basketball Game - MVCC vs. HCCC  
Team MVCC will be selling Hot Dogs, Pizza, Popcorn, and soda during the game to raise money for the Heart Association.

**Tuesday, February 23**

Heart Run & Walk Registration at the MVCC Rome Campus.  
Plumley Complex - Atrium, 11:00 am - 2:00pm  
Team MVCC will register participants, selling hearts and pins to raise money for the Heart American Association.

**Wednesday, February 24**

Heart Run & Walk - Community Registration Location at MVCC  
Utica Campus, IT Building – 1st Floor Lobby, Noon - 8:00 pm

**Saturday, March 6**

America's Greatest Heart Run & Walk  
Saturday, March 6, 10:30 am  
Utica College

# Diaz helps women's hoops program to run smoothly

The women's basketball team at Mohawk Valley Community College is well on its way for a return trip to the NJCAA national tournament with a 21-1 record. Much of the credit for this year's success can be given to freshman guard Isayra Diaz.



Diaz

Diaz is averaging 16.3 points per game this season as the Hawks are currently ranked fourth in the nation. With her leadership as a first-year student-athlete, she has been named MVCC Athlete of the Week. Diaz is majoring in Sports Medicine.

**Women's Basketball:** The Hawks have been busy over the past week with four games, all leading to victories. Opening against Herkimer CCC, the Hawks flew home with a 63-56 victory on the shoulders of freshman guard Domonique Washington and her 19 points. Two nights later, Washington was once again the top scorer with 14 points as MVCC defeated Albany Pharmacy, 71-53. MVCC's momentum continued against Hudson Valley CC, with a 59-44 final as sophomore guard Gracie Plagainos poured in 16 points. MVCC improved its record to 21-1 overall, 17-1 in Region III, and 11-1 in the Mountain Valley Conference with a 56-46 victory over SUNY Delhi. Sophomore forward Keonti Powell was the leading scorer with 18 points.

**Men's Basketball:** The Hawks are on pace to enter the Region III tournament with a lot of momentum after defeating Hudson Valley CC, 89-78. Leading the MVCC offensive attack was sophomore guard Bradley Griffin with 21 points while sophomore guard Jerome Davis added 17 points.

Also hitting double figures was freshman forward Deandre Preaster with 18 points to go along with his 15 rebounds. The Hawks' record improves to 8-3 in the Mountain Valley Conference, 15-4 in Region III, and 18-5 overall.

## Black History Month benefit dinner, Feb. 26

The Black Student Union and Caribbean Club of MVCC will be hosting their Second Annual Black History Month Benefit Dinner, entitled "The ABC's to a Higher Education" on Friday, February 26, at 6:00 p.m.

This year's event will be held in the Alumni College Center. As part of the dinner, there'll be a presentation by the Rev. Dr. Mary J. Webster, a 1985 alumni graduate of MVCC.

The entertainment will be a musical selection from alumni Delmarshia Curry, of St. Paul's Baptist Church; a flute selection from Leslie Kubica, a music instructor and MVCC placement testing advisor; and a dance performance from the MVCC Dance Team.

Tickets are \$3.00 for students and \$5.00 for non-students. They can be purchased through Student Activities, Room 208, Alumni College Center. RSVP by February 15, via [apatterson28@student.mvcc.edu](mailto:apatterson28@student.mvcc.edu).

Save time and stop by the  
MV Commons.




## FISH FRY



**Fish Fries & Coleslaw \$6.99**

Fresh Fried Haddock prepared by  
Chef Manager Jason Martin

Starting Wednesday February 17th

And Every Friday Night  
February 19 thru April 2  
Pick up time = 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Email your order to [jmartin@mvcc.edu](mailto:jmartin@mvcc.edu) by  
3:00pm on Friday to guarantee your  
order. Quantities Limited.




**Submit information to be  
included in Communitas to:  
[rhaubert@mvcc.edu](mailto:rhaubert@mvcc.edu)**

# Valentine's Day Celebration

Omeragic Hajradin chats with his daughter Ajla.



April Vroman helps her son James unwrap a cupcake.



Anthony enjoys a cup cake.

It was a “Celebration of Friendship” at the Kiddie Campus on Friday as the children exchanged Valentine Day cards. The 22 children in class painted paper hearts and “love bugs” which were then strung up with string to work on their motor skills. After exchanging cards and goodie bags, the children hosted a luncheon party for the parents who were able to make it.

## MVCC student’s design helps promote local music festival

It has become an annual tradition in the collaborative effort between the MVCC Graphic Design students and the Great American Irish Festival.

Since 2007, graphic design students have been developing and creating the posters used to promote the annual music festival, which features national and international music artists. This year’s design was created by Dan Barley of Oneida. This project enables MVCC students to begin building their portfolios when pursuing a career in graphic design.

In its seventh year, the Great American Irish Festival has been using artwork from MVCC students.

In the spring of 2004, students helped create an “identity mark” (logo) for the festival. Adrienne Sangastiano’s design was selected and continues to represent the festival. Her winning design features a harp and the shadow of a shamrock, which are the two most recognizable symbols in Ireland, along with an Irish top hat and an American Flag attached to the strings.

This year’s festival, which drew 54,000 people with the help of 750 volunteers, will be held July 23, 24, 25 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort. Some of the activities include an Irish mass, pipe band competition and massed march, Gaelic football and rugby tournaments, a 5K run, and events for the entire family.

