



Black Male Symposium spreads messages of encouragement

MVCC played host to the Black Male Symposium on Friday and Saturday, March 26-27, with the event being hailed as a major success, says Morris Pearson, Director of Civic Responsibilities, and Jean Leandre, Technical Assistant to CSTEP and Student Activities.

Friday evening attracted over 65 participants which consisted of workshops presented by local community leaders and professionals: Dr. M. Woods of Hamilton College, Terrill Dean of SUNY IT, and Carlos Wallace who is Assistant Principal at Proctor High School. The Presenters addressed the black male image, empowerment and the "State of the Black Family."

The participants of the event were interactive and intrigued by the plethora of data and insight.

On Saturday, over 100 individuals attended the luncheon sponsored by the Black Student Union and the Caribbean Club, where Dr. Mary Webster spoke of the subject "ABC's of Higher Education."

Later that afternoon, there were workshops presented by Carl Boykin, Craig Grant, Cassandra Harris-Lockwood, Terrill Dean, Patrick Johnson and Gary Harvey, addressing education, sex drugs and alcohol and the image of women.

The Keynote speaker was Alex Ellis from New Brunswick, N.J., addressing the concept "Tied to Greatness." As part of his presentation, he gave each participant a neck tie as a symbol of success along with a book written by him. The keynote speaker inspired the audience to complete school, to



LEADING BY EXAMPLE - Keynote speaker Alex Ellis demonstrates the importance of image to some young men following his presentation on "Tied to Greatness."

be conscious of their image, and gave tips as to how they can overcome obstacles.

Based on the event being well received there are plans to build on the concept and to make it an annual event inspiring Black males, according to Pearson.

Kiddie Campus art show helps raise awareness

The Kiddie Campus' 2010 Art Show was a big hit with students, children, parents, faculty and staff who attended. It was held on Friday, March 26, in the lobby of the Information Technology Building.

Displayed was the artwork created by the children at the Kiddie Campus this year with the help of students from the College's art program. The art show served a second purpose - the kickoff of efforts to raise money for the playground renovation project.

"We want to thank everyone for their support as this was our kickoff for raising money to go towards these renovations. We want the playground to be more welcoming and pleasing," said Jeri George, Director of Child Care Services. "It is a very expensive proposition," with an estimated cost of \$20,000 for a new surface and equipment.

For the Kiddie Campus to receive its accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the playground needs to meet standards which the current facilities fall short of doing.

Some of the equipment sought in this renovation is new ground cover (the current wood chips need to be replaced every 3-4 years), slide, garden boxes, benches as well as music station and double-fence easel which enables bringing some of the indoor curriculum to the outdoors. Also needed is a sandbox with cover, which is a requirement by NAEYC.

A \$25 donation will place individuals in the running for an invitation to the Kiddie Campus' Spring Barbeque which will be held in May. The drawing will be at the end of April, providing plenty of time for more people to enter the raffle. Donations can be made to the College's Auxiliary Services Corporation.



International Festival brings cultures together

The annual International Festival will be held on Wednesday, April 7, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the lobbies and theater of the Information Technology Building. There will also be events in Room 225.

This event is free and open to everyone in the community. As a Diversity and Global View event, it affords an opportunity to learn and discover the many cultures of the people who live in the Mohawk Valley.

There will be continuous displays, information tables, textile & fiber arts display as well as cultural exhibits representing over 20 countries. This is coordinated by the International Initiatives Committee.

The events schedule is:

12 p.m. - IT Lobby

- Leslie Kubica, flute
- Vice President Maryrose Eannace, Introductory Remarks
- International Greetings by International Students with Alison Doughtie
- Mrs. Khanh, Visiting Professor from Vietnam introduced by Sandra Engel

12:15 p.m. – First floor lobby

- International Dance with Professor David Katz
- International Displays in first and second floor lobbies

1:00 p.m. - Lecture in Theater

- “Latin American Political Unification Efforts” with Dr. Salvador Rivera

1:00 p.m. - International Students in Room 225

- International Students speak about their countries with Dayton Elseth

1:00 p.m. - International Film in Payne Hall, Room 102

- El Espinazo Del Diablo (The Devil’s Backbone) Spain
Guillermo del Toro (Mexican) with Professor Rosemary Mink
- Related International Events going on the same week include the musical lecture “Estonian Song Festival” with Nancy and Ken Pease on Tuesday, April 6, at 11 a.m. in Room 225 of the IT Building.

There will also be the Flamenco performance on Wednesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. by the Gringos Flamencos in the theater.

FireHawks program helps area’s firefighters

MVCC is preparing to welcome the inaugural cohort of FireHawks, up to 10 Oneida County volunteer firefighters who will be eligible for tuition support from the program that is a joint effort including; MVCC, Oneida County, and the Oneida County Volunteer Firemen’s Advisory Board.

This program is run through MVCC’s Adult Learner Services by coordinator Janet Visalli.

The FireHawks tuition support program funds volunteer firefighters’ college studies at MVCC. With financial support from the County, this pilot program will welcome a new class of 10 Oneida County firefighters each year, starting Fall 2010. FireHawks candidates selected to receive tuition support will be eligible for full tuition and fees up to \$5,000 annually, less financial aid, for any program of study offered by MVCC.

Eligible firefighters are those who are active in an Oneida County volunteer fire department and living in Oneida County prior to filing their admission application. FireHawks recipients must enroll at least half-time, meet academic standards of progress, and complete their studies within five years. In return

for the tuition reimbursement, participants must commit to at least three years’ service as Oneida County volunteer firefighters.

Firefighters who wish to participate should first apply to the college via MVCC’s regular application for admission and file standard FAFSA and other documentation with the Financial Aid Office. Additional FireHawks application materials are online at www.mvcc.edu/students/financialaid/forms.cfm or at Oneida County firehouses.

While all are welcome to apply to MVCC, candidates for FireHawks tuition support will be chosen via a competitive process starting in April.

Tuition support applications will first be endorsed by the candidates’ local chiefs, then a panel selected by MVCC, the Oneida County Fire Advisory Board, the Board of Legislators, and the Office of the County Executive. Before each semester at MVCC, FireHawk students will participate in standard financial aid and registration processes, with their chiefs certifying that they are active firefighters.

Dr. Goerner releases third collection of poetry

MVCC’s Leslie Goerner, Ph.D., has completed and published her third collection of poetry with its release this spring through Bellowing Ark Press. In this latest collection, *Practicing Forever*, Dr. Goerner has stripped her language of excess, brought it to a precision of brevity, and yet writes with a richness of expression that is exemplary.

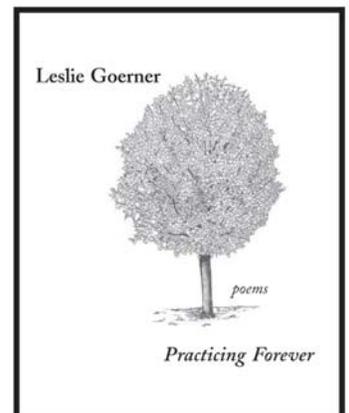
Her other works include *The Life of Light* (1994) and *Saying Grace* (1999). More than eighty poems have appeared nationwide in magazines and journals, with one placing second in the 2004 Evangelical Press Association Award.

She is a recipient of the Newhouse Award in

Poetry from SUNY Binghamton and a Pushcart Prize nominee by Bellowing Ark Press. Dr. Goerner teaches English and creative writing at MVCC.

In these latest works, Dr. Goerner’s poems bring to mind a Mandelbrot Set’s property of revealing more and more complexity the closer it is examined. Much of the underlying metaphor is Christian, this in no way limits the human appeal, the general applicability of Dr. Goerner’s writing - indeed, these poems - are richer than most because they are both grounded and seeking.

There are no final answers here, only a singular movement toward Truth.



Athletes of the Week

For years, MVCC has been known for its strong distance runners. This was etched in granite last week at the Ithaca Track and Field Invitational when Garrett Parker was the first junior college runner to finish the 3,000-meter Steeple Chase.

For his performance, Parker was named MVCC's Athlete of the Week.

Parker's time in the race was 10 minutes, 34.07 seconds which qualified him for the NJCAA Outdoor Track and Field Nationals to be held at Howard Community College in Maryland.

As a sophomore business major, Parker currently has the fastest time in Division III runners. Parker is a graduate of Whitesboro High School.



Parker

Monday, April 5

- 9:00 am - Local Census Office: Forms Assistance, PC Atrium
- 11:00 am - Chemical Dependency Club, ACC 212
- 2:00 pm - Baseball vs. Ithaca JV, Murnane Field
- 3:00 pm - Chess Club: Informal Games, ACC 114
- 5:30 pm - CCED: T'ai Chi, ACC 116
- 6:00 pm - Drinking & Driving Program Class, RA 306
- 7:00 pm - CCED: Ballroom Dancing, ACC 116
- 7:00 pm - March Madness Games, MV Commons

Tuesday, April 6

- 11:00 am - International Festival: "Estonian Song Festival" w/Nancy & Ken Pease, IT 225
- 11:00 am - Local Census Office: Forms Assistance, PC Atrium
- 2:30 pm - College Senate, IT 225
- 3:00 pm - Habitat for Humanity, ACC 212
- 4:00 pm - Men's Tennis vs. Onondaga CC, Tennis Courts
- 4:00 pm - Drama Club, ACC 212
- 7:00 pm - Lacrosse vs. Herkimer CCC, Proctor Stadium
- 7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons

Wednesday, April 7

- 10:00 am - Phi Theta Kappa/SNO: Blood Drive Signup, AB Lobby
- 12:00 pm - Brown Bag Lunch Series: "So You Have to Write a Paper: Conquering Writing Anxiety," ACC 116
- 12:00 pm - International Festival: "A Celebration of Our International Community," IT Building
- 1:00 pm - International Festival Lecture: "Latin American Political Unification Efforts" w/Dr. Salvador Rivera, Theater
- 6:00 pm - Keuka College Information Session, IT 220
- 6:30 pm - Pieciful Gals Quilting Club, PC 209
- 7:00 pm - International Fest Concert: Gringos Flamencos, Theater
- 7:00 pm - MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116
- 7:00 pm - Night Hawk Café, MV Commons

Thursday, April 8

- 8:00 am - Assessment Workshop, IT 225
- 8:30 am - W.I.C., ACC 116
- 10:00 am - Transfer Fair, MV Commons
- 10:00 am - Phi Theta Kappa/SNO: Blood Drive Signup, AB Lobby
- 11:00 am - Dental Hygiene Program: NERB Examiner, PC Aud
- 11:00 am - Local Census Office: Forms Assistance, PC Atrium
- 1:00 pm - East Asian Culture Club, ACC 212
- 2:00 pm - Baseball vs. Fulton-Montgomery CC, Murnane Field
- 3:00 pm - Softball vs. Herkimer CCC, Softball Field
- 2:00 pm - Student Congress, ACC 212
- 3:00 pm - Education Club, ACC 114
- 4:00 pm - Men's Tennis vs. Herkimer CCC, Tennis Courts
- 6:00 pm - Strategic Gaming Club, ACC 212
- 7:00 pm - CCED: Ballroom Dancing, ACC 116

Friday, April 9

- 8:00 am - Assessment Workshop, IT 225
- 8:30 am - Habitat for Humanity, ACC 212
- 9:00 am - Local Census Office: Forms Assistance, PC Atrium
- 2:00 pm - GSA, ACC 212
- 7:00 pm - CCED: Ballroom Dancing, ACC 116
- {Reminder: Tonight is the MVCC Alumni Get-Together at the Turning Stone Casino, 6:00 - 8:00 pm}

Saturday, April 10

- 8:00 am - MVCAA: Drinking & Driving Program Class, PC 207
- 8:00 am - Strategic Gaming Conference, ACC Bldg.
- 10:00 am - Children's Creative Arts & Educational Fair, Gym
- 12:00 pm - Family Fun Series: The Great Outdoors, PC Lawn
- 1:00 pm - Men's Tennis vs. Adirondack CC, Tennis Courts
- 5:00 pm - BSU Fashion Show, Theater

Sunday, April 11

- 8:00 am - Strategic Gaming Conference, ACC Bldg.



Dr. Searles

Dr. Searles publishes two poems

Dr. George J. Searles has published two new poems in literary magazines, one in *Glimpse* (Toronto, Canada) and the other in *Voicings From the High Country* (Casper, Wyoming). Dr. Searles is a professor in the Center for Arts and Humanities.

Children's Arts and Education Fair

The College's Education Club and the Mid-York Child Care Coordinating Council will be jointly sponsoring the Children's Arts and Education Fair to be held on Saturday, April 10, in the Gymnasium from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This event is for children between the ages of 2-10. The cost is \$1 per child (adults are free). There will be a Scholastic Book Fair sponsored by the Education Club which is the major fundraising campaign for the club. This has been an enjoyable event for everyone in past years. Last year's fair featured a bike helmet give away for the first 100-200 children.



Budding artist!

MVCC Faces: Melissa Copperwheat



Melissa Copperwheat
Instructor

When it comes to preparing the next generation of nurses for the medical field, Melissa E. Copperwheat, RN, MS, OCN, emphasizes the importance of paying attention to details, especially the smallest one.

My goal is to develop professional, competent individuals who can work independently and in collaboration with members of the health care team to provide optimal health care," said Copperwheat.

As one of the College's newest nursing instructors, this New York Mills resident is ensuring the success of today's students in tomorrow's world. She is currently teaching Pharmacology 111 and 112 along with Nursing 201 and 202. She is responsible for instruction in the classroom, laboratory and clinical environment for these disciplines.

Since becoming a full-time faculty member in August 2009, she has served on the New Faculty Institute Committee and is a member of Oncology Nursing Society.

Copperwheat earned her Associate Degree in Nursing from St. Elizabeth College of Nursing and her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from SUNY Institute of Technology. She went on to earn her Master of Science degree in Nursing Education from SUNY IT.

When not at work, she volunteers by delivering Thanksgiving dinners with her family to less fortunate individuals through the Presbyterian Church. She also participates with her children in the Greatest American Heart Run and Walk, the Diabetes Walk and the American Cancer Society Walk each year. She is a member of her son's sixth grade class committee to help organize its end of year class trip to New York City.

Some of the hobbies she enjoys with her husband Mike, sons Michael and Logan, and daughters Abbey and Maggie, are walking, skiing, shopping and gardening.

Celebrate National Library Week

The College's library staff is in the process of kicking off National Library Week which will be held April 12 – 16. Some of the events planned are:

Monday, April 12 – COOKIE DAY: Begin the week with an assortment of cookies while checking out the latest Bestsellers. (Utica Campus)

Tuesday, April 13 – PENCIL DAY: "Read to succeed"....pencil in a trip to the Library on your calendar today! (Utica Campus)

Wednesday, April 14 – BOOKMARK DAY: Choose from our assortment of bookmarks. (Utica Campus)

Thursday, April 15 – READALOUD TO KIDDIE CAMPUS DAY: Come join us as we present our Kiddie Campus Readaloud program. 10:00 a.m. -11 a.m. Utica Campus Library Lobby

Friday, April 16 – USED VIDEO SALE TO BENEFIT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS: VHS Video sale. Utica Campus Library Lobby. Cost: one dollar per video. There are hundreds of VHS films to choose from. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

On the Rome Campus, the library will be holding its Recycled Reading program again. Participants will be asked to donate their unwanted books so that they can find new homes. The books will be available for adoption in the atrium of the Plumley Complex, during the week of April 12 - 16. Book donations will be accepted from today through April 16.

Correction/Clarification

Russo appears in book on Utica political machine

MVCC's Samuel Russo was mentioned in a recently published book on the life of Rufus P. Elefante. The book, "Rufie: A Political Scrapbook" was published by the Ethnic Heritage Studies Center at Utica College and distributed by Syracuse University Press.

Russo, the College's Grants Director, was part of the political machine in the City of Utica before coming to MVCC. On page 67 of the book, he is addressed in his former position as City Planner.

The book is compiled of clippings collected by Mr. Elefante's daughter, Angela. Angela Elefante is a former Board of Trustees member at MVCC. Within the clippings are examples of Rufus Elefante's connections to powerful political officials on the local, state and national levels.