Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of April 25, 2011

Mark your calendar for Summer Institute

The pulse of MVCC won't slow once final grades are recorded and the last tassel is flipped. So save the dates – May 24-25 – for MVCC's Summer Institute.

Acclaimed futurist, Dr. Lowell Catlett will present on Tuesday, May 24, a plenary session titled "Education Everywhere." A noted lecturer and economist, Catlett's fascinating views about where higher education is headed is delivered with a large dose of wry wit and high-energy. Catlett is a professor, dean, and chief administrative officer at New Mexico State University.

If you've never attended MVCC's Summer Institute, don't hesitate to take advantage of one of the many lectures and workshops being presented by your co-workers to advance your personal and professional growth.

Another exciting guest speaker will be Dr. Roland Kays, Curator at the State Museum in Albany, and renowned Food Network chef, David Britton. Dr. Kays and Britton will serve up one of their Famous Foodie Lectures - "Cooking The Tree of Life." Kays provides evolutionary back-stories about common edibles while Britton takes center-stage to shake, bake, slice 'n' dice a variety of delicious cuisines inspired by the subject matter.

Other exciting professional development programs include Lew Kahler and Dawson McDermott discussion on "Strengthening Academic Advising at MVCC" along with George Goerner's presentation on "Freeware," about how a new course can be developed so that all of the learning information is free to the student.

Other workshops include the DegreeWorks Core Team revealing the details of "DegreeWorks—Beyond the Buzz" and how faculty and staff can get a head start on the fall with this introduction of this software. As part of the Civility Project, Patrick Johnson will host "Embracing and Understanding Diversity."

Seats fill fast! To register for any of the 20-plus workshops offered over two days, go to http://www2.mvcc.edu/training/si/ .

Caughey kept the ink flowing at MVCC

The College community is bidding farewell and thanks to one of the people who has made everyone's lives easier. Chuck Caughey, the Printing Supervisor, will be retiring after more than 40 years working for MVCC.

Chuck started at MVCC in September of 1969 after earning his Associate in Applied Science in Advertising and Design from MVCC. His first job was running the Multilith 250, an off-set duplicating press.

"It was on the job training," said Chuck. "You didn't get as much hands-on training in the college's labs back then as you do today as it was mostly theory."

With the idea of keeping the pressmen close to the administration and the faculty, Chuck was stationed on the third floor of Payne Hall across from the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Crammed into that small room was a press, plate maker, paper cutters and collator.

"It was cramped and always got complaints because the old machines had a lot of chemical smells, they were noisy and made a mess when cleaning up," recalls Chuck. "Being on the third floor was something new they wanted to try and they didn't know what they were getting into, but boy did I hear complaints."

If this small area wasn't bad enough, in 1976 it was decided to move the press operation to the basement of Payne Hall where there was poor ventilation and equipment was squeezed between elevator motors and large HVAC fans.

WASHING THE INK OFF HIS HANDS - After spending 42 years working with ink in the College Press Shop, Chuck Caughey is looking forward to keeping his hands clean in retirement.

With the press shop producing more and more of the College's publications, more equipment was added along with bigger presses during the late 1970s. The College also got its first big Xerox machine which took loads more space.

"It was quite challenging working the basement as we had to lug cases of paper up and down the stairs along with all the supplies. I don't miss those days," said Chuck with a chuckle.

It wasn't until around 1998 that the basement of the Alumni College Center was renovated and the print shop was moved into a suitable environment. Chuck says that on-campus printing goes in cycles where some years they are producing large publications like the course catalog to other years where they are doing many jobs ranging from 100 to 200 copies.

"What is different today from the old equipment is the off-set press took a lot of time setting up and you could only print one page at a time. Today's digital copiers can do multiple pages on both sides, collate them and staple in some cases. But the cost of using today's digital copiers is much higher than the off-set press," said Chuck.

Chuck looks back fondly at how the College has changed over the years. In the early 1970s there were the traditional daytime students and then the evening division of adult students; today the boundaries are less divisive.

As he heads into retirement at the end of next month, Chuck plans to turn his easy going manners to finish off all those projects he has started over the years on his home.

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

Deborah Pryputniewicz was recognized for 30 years of service last week by President VanWagoner and her co-workers during a ceremony in her office. Deborah is the Library Clerk for the Educational Technologies Department on the Utica Campus. She joined MVCC on March 9, 1981. ▲

◀ It was a tight fit into Deborah Cornish's office, but everyone squeezed in to recognize her 25 years of service last week. On hand were President VanWagoner and Dean Jubenville along many of her co-workers. Deborah is a Technical Assistant for the Life Science Department. She joined MVCC on January 7, 1986.

◀ Professor James Fiore recently completed his 30th year at MVCC and was honored for his dedication. James has been a leading role model in the Electrical Engineering Technology field, having published a text books and other professional articles. James joined MVCC on March 1, 1981.

Maria Salamida has seen it all pass through her office during her 25 years at MVCC. In recent years, she has been the Administrative Assistant for the Vice President of Student Services and Dean of Students.Maria joined the staff on March 10, 1986. ▶

Social Media Team seeks ideas, examples

Because social media outlets like Facebook have the potential to help students and enhance enrollment, MVCC has embarked on a college-wide project to strategically organize the college's social media efforts. The first part of this process is a survey of MVCC-specific social media presences maintained by the college. To follow the process and contribute via social media, check out "The MVCC Social Media Project" on Facebook.

A new social media team has been established by the Administrative Processing Workgroup (APROC) to begin the process. Its charge is to identify social media strategies and tactics that can better engage prospective students and better engage current students, with the results that students become more likely to enroll and more likely to persist at MVCC.

The 18-member team had its first meeting this week and established a schedule for recommending a social media strategy for the college. Team members will study current MVCC practices and national best practices over the next few weeks, with the goal of presenting an interim report to APROC in early May and final recommendations to the directors of Admissions, Information Technology, and Marketing in late May. New social media strategies will be scheduled for implementation in the Fall 2011 semester, with Marketing, Admissions, and IT providing staff and technological support.

The social media team's first task is to catalog all the current social media efforts in place at the college. Co-chairs Kendrick Morrison (kmorrison@mvcc.edu), admissions specialist; Chrono Ho (cho@mvcc.edu), visual media coordinator; and Jennifer Rotundo (jrotundo@mvcc.edu), media content coordinator, are asking for information from all college employees and offices that use social media for their work.

People who use social media on behalf of MVCC are asked to send Jen a link (if they haven't already) to the outlet they use (like a Facebook page, Twitter feed, or YouTube channel), along with a one-sentence description of the outlet's intended purpose and audience. Personal social media profiles should not be included unless they are used specifically for college business. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, May 3.

The team will review the information gathered and compare it to national best practices to help all MVCC social media users find more efficient ways of working online. The committee chairs are also interested in general input from the college community; feel free to e-mail them with ideas and questions.

Did you know?

Over 237 individuals have received computer training through MVCC's CyberJobs from Jan 1 - March 31, 2011.

Stetson recognized as leading NYS trustee

John B. Stetson, P.E., a 13-year member of the Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustees, has won New York State's highest honor for a community college trustee. On April 15, at its 57th Annual Conference in Rochester, the New York Community College Trustees presented its Anne M. Bushnell Memorial Award for Special Achievement to Stetson. The award recognizes Stetson's leadership during a period of rapid growth and transformational change at MVCC.

Stetson

Stetson is co-founder of Utica-based Stetson-Harza Architects, Engineers, and Construction Managers. As a Trustee, Stetson's half century of professional expertise in design has been a boon to the college as it has built new facilities and made long-term plans for growth. His hands-on contributions to the Board of Trustees include terms as Vice Chair and Chair, and over the years Stetson has played central roles in the construction of college facilities including New Hall, the Information Technology Building, and the soon-to-open Jorgenson Athletic and Events Center. He has been a vital part of the college's master planning process, which establishes a two-decade-plus strategy for how the college can grow sustainably and make best use of its resources.

"John's energetic and thoughtful approach to his board service has literally transformed this college, in both its physical profile and the work with students in our classrooms. He is an effective volunteer leader and his steady hand has guided us through major improvements," says President Randall VanWagoner, Ph.D. "For John to be honored with NYCCT's highest award signifies his stature among our state's best community college leaders."

Stetson is a gubernatorial appointee to the MVCC board, which he has served since 1997. He has served on the board's Compensation, Audit and Finance, and Facilities Committees among other roles. As chair he initiated the Millennium Project, a partnership between MVCC and the Utica City School District that has paid substantial long-term dividends for students who begin their college studies at Proctor High School and move via a tailored curriculum into MVCC and transfer institutions. He has also been active in supporting the community college movement at the statewide level. NYCCT named Stetson the 2006 award of its Marvin A. Rapp Award for Distinguished Trustee Service for these state-level efforts.

"John's twin dedications to institution and community have greatly benefited MVCC students," says Elaine Falvo, Board of Trustees Chair. "He is highly regarded by all those in his broad, deep network of community engagement. He is most deserving of this signature recognition." Stetson was nominated for the Bushnell award by unanimous resolution of the board, in recognition of both his service to the college and his extensive involvement in Utica organizations such as the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, the New York State Historical Association, and Presbyterian Home among others.

The award's namesake, Anne M. Bushnell, was a nationally recognized trustee of Ulster County Community College for 19 years. She was the first-ever recipient of NYCCT's Award for Special Achievement in 1986. NYCCT renamed the award in her honor after her passing in 1990. Only one such award is granted in any given year, and the award is only presented in years when there is an honoree whose achievements are especially outstanding examples of community college leadership. NYCCT is a non-profit consortium representing the appointed board members who govern New York's SUNY and CUNY community colleges.

Faculty, students help support Ted Moore Run

The 14th Annual Ted Moore Run/Walk is only a week away and excitement for this event is growing. The 5K Run/Walk has increased in popularity each year, with this year's event on pace to set another participation record.

This year more than ever MVCC faculty, staff and student clubs have stepped forward to help raise money and increase awareness of the Ted Moore Run/Walk.

"I'm excited to see how many new faculty members have taken an interested in the Run/Walk, and have challenged each other to participate in an effort to raise money for the Ted Moore Memorial Scholarship fund," said Deanna L. Ferro, Run/Walk Race Director.

Donations have been received from both the MVCC Public Policy Club and the Criminal Justice Clubs which are attributed to the energy and generosity of two new faculty members at the college - Henry Bartlett and David Pasick. Shortly after the donations were made, a challenge was put out to David Pasick by Henry Bartlett, "if David places or wins anything at the run/walk; I will donate an additional $100." The pressure was on, but David Pasick has taken it all in stride knowing the money raised will benefit the Ted Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund, and our MVCC Students. Henry and David hope this challenge will encourage other departments and colleagues throughout the college to become more involved in the Run/Walk, and support those who plan on running or walking on May 7.

Along with our faculty and staff support, Student Congress and the Welders Among Communities Club used their time and talents to promote and raise money for the run/walk in their own ways. Student Congress chose to sell Sneaker Angels and Root Beer Floats throughout the week, and where accompanied by members of the WAC Club who were selling raffle tickets for a metal bench.

This semester the WAC Club built a beautiful hand-made bench and chose to raffle it off in support of the Ted Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund. This bench valued at over $2,000 was a great addition to the fundraising efforts this year; the Ted Moore Committee was thrilled to hear the proceeds from this raffle would benefit the Run/Walk.

In total these two student fundraisers were able to rise over $582 for the Ted Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund, and Celia Domser walked away as winner of the custom hand-made bench.

Faculty, Staff and Students are encouraged to participate in the run walk, however if you are unable to attend on Saturday, May 7th please consider sponsoring a student, a colleague or simply make a donation to the Ted Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund.

MVCC EVENTS

Monday, May 2
8:00 am - SUNY Canton Dental Hygiene Exams, Festine Aud.
10:00 am – Latino Student Union, AB Lobby
2:00 pm - Circle K, ACC 212
6:00 pm - Lecture/Movie (DGV): "Carbon Nation" with Robert Decker, Theater

Tuesday, May 3
2:30 pm - College Senate, IT 225
4:30 pm - Drama Club, ACC 114
5:00 pm - Alcohol Education, ACC212
6:00 pm - Lecture/Movie (DGV): "Carbon Nation" with Robert Decker, Festine Auditorium

Wednesday, May 4
10:00 am – Latino Student Union, AB Lobby
4:00 pm - Program Board, ACC 212
4:00 pm - Awards Reception Dinner, ACC 116
4:00 pm - Step Team Club, ACC 114
4:30 pm – Latino Student Union, IT 218
7:00 pm - Concert: Matt Corey Band, Theater

Thursday, May 5
3:00 pm - MVCC Softball vs. Jefferson CC, Softball field
3:00 pm - Student Activities, ACC 212
3:00 pm - Student Service Success Get Together, IT Lobby 1st Floor
3:00 pm – Latino Student Union, AB Lobby
3:00 pm – SPC, ACC 114
5:00 pm - BBG Dance, ACC 116
6:00 pm - Lecture/Movie (DGV): "The Rite" with Father Sean Patrick O'Brien, Theater

Friday, May 6
10:00 am - Student Activities, ACC 212
10:00 am – Latino Student Union, AB Lobby
Noon - Cultural Series: Human Knot, MV Commons
2:00 pm - IF Club, ACC 212
3:30 pm – Black Student Union, ACC 212
4:00 pm - Chess Club, ACC 114
6:00 pm - Lecture/Movie (DGV): "The Rite" with Father Sean Patrick O'Brien, Festine Auditorium
6:00 pm - Poetry Club, ACC 212

Saturday, May 7
8:00 am - Ted Moore 5K Walk/Run, Gymnasium
10:00 am - Social/Reception (DGV): "Victorian Tea" A Pre-Mother's Day Celebration, Hospitality Dining Room

Athlete of the Week

As a member of MVCC's NJCAA National Champion cross country team, it is no surprise Savannah Boucher's success has continued this spring in track and field. After this past week's performance, she has been named MVCC's Athlete of the Week for the week ending April 24.

Boucher

Boucher, who was the individual Mountain Valley Conference and Region III champion as well as an First Team All-American for the cross country team, set a new school record for MVCC in the 3,000-meter Steeplechase with a time of 11 minutes, 56.54 seconds. She is currently ranked No. 1 in the nation in this event.

Boucher is a freshman Liberal Arts major who graduated from New Hartford High School.

Coming next week in Communitas

Don't go away. There is a lot more coming next week in Communitas with the induction of new Phi Theta Kappa members along with the business students' Etiquette Dinner and trip to New York City. The Black Student Union was also very busy in the past week by hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for the Kiddie Campus campers along with several exhibits being hosted on the Utica Campus. There will also be an update on the new field house with photos of the progress being made and more on Summer Institute workshops.

Mineo to take part in Ride for Missing Children

What started as a jovial jab from his friends has turned into a mission for mathematics instructor Robert Mineo.

Mineo

Mineo, who is seeking sponsors with a minimum goal of $500 with hopes of topping $800, will take part in the annual Ride for Missing Children - Central New York which benefits the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. This year's event will be held Friday, May 20,

The ride begins at the YMCA in Oneida and travels along Rt. 5 to Westmoreland, continues on through New Hartford, Utica, Frankfort, Ilion, Mohawk and Herkimer before heading west through Schuyler, Whitesboro and finishing at the New Hartford Recreation Center. In all, this ride covers nearly 100 miles with cyclists stopping at area elementary schools to inform students of how to remain safe.

"As a rider in this exciting event, I have pledged to raise at least $500. The Ride for Missing Children helps create more awareness of child victimization, and raises money to support the ongoing work of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children/NY/Mohawk Valley Branch," said Mineo, who added that all the money raised remains locally to provide case assistance and spearhead prevention education services in CNY. "This organization needs our help to make our children safer one child at a time."

Mineo is a CNY native having graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1996 before earning his Bachelor's degree from SUNY Pottsdam in education and mathematics. He completed his Master's degree from SUNY IT in computer science. At 33, he continues to volunteer for causes which support causes surrounding today's youth.

To donate, contact Mineo in his office (PH 393) or donate directly through his website at www.active.com/donate/RFMCCNY2011/BobMineoFundraising