Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of August 22, 2011

Maya Angelou honors MVCC as first speaker in Jorgensen Athletic/Events Center

The College's Cultural Series will present Maya Angelou, one of the great figures of contemporary literature, as the keynote speaker of its Fall 2011 season. Dr. Angelou will appear Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. in the 2,800-seat field house at the new Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic and Event Center, becoming the first Cultural Series act to appear in the newly completed showcase building on MVCC's Utica campus.

"Dr. Angelou's intellectual stature and public profile make her an exemplar for the cultural vibrancy that our entire Mohawk Valley region can take pride in," says Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., President of MVCC. "Her message and her activism are inspiring in the way in which they connect to all people. We are delighted to have Dr. Angelou at the center of our most exciting Cultural Series season yet."

Dr. Angelou is hailed as a global renaissance woman, as a celebrated poet, memoirist, novelist, educator, dramatist, producer, actress, historian, filmmaker, and civil rights activist. She has worked with Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Angelou's best known book, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," was published in 1970. Her 1972 script for the film "Georgia, Georgia" was the first by an African-American woman to be filmed and it was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Angelou has served on two Presidential committees, received the Presidential Medal of Arts, the Lincoln Medal, and three Grammy Awards. At President Bill Clinton's request she composed the poem, "On the Pulse of the Morning" for his 1993 inauguration. She has received more than 30 honorary degrees and is the Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University.

Dr. Angelou tickets will be on sale to the public starting Monday, Sept. 12, at 9 a.m. Tickets will be available for purchase via the new online box office at www.mvcc.edu/culture; at box offices in the Utica Campus IT Building and Rome Campus Plumley Building; and by phone at (315) 731-5721. Tickets will be $40 for the general public, $25 for MVCC employees, and free for MVCC students with ID. A limited number of tickets will be available for pre-sale to MVCC students, faculty, and staff. Pre-sale tickets will not be available to the public.

LITERARY ICON TO SPEAK IN JORGENSEN - Maya Angelou is the keynote speaker of the Fall 2011 Cultural Series. Dr. Angelou will appear Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. in the 2,800-seat field house at the Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic and Event Center on the Utica Campus.

Cultural Series promises more excitement this fall

The College's Cultural Series has continued to set records in attendance as well as in the variety of events being scheduled for both campuses.

Here are some of the facts gathered by Bill Dustin, Events Administrator for the Cultural Series. Over the past five years, the Cultural Series has grown into one of the largest cultural outlets in Central New York, bringing nationally and world renowned musicians, lecturers, comedians and films to MVCC's Utica and Rome campuses. It has benefited MVCC students, allowing them experience the best of the performing arts from around the world.

It not only benefits the College community, but also the surrounding region as it capitalizes on the rich culture and network of community partners of which the Mohawk Valley is justifiably proud. The Cultural Series has grown especially rapidly the last three years – from about 70 events in fall of 2009, to 85 events last fall, to more than 110 events this fall.

"New for this semester, we've included lectures in Science with 'Math and Meteorology' as well as a lecture on 'Arachnids.' There are lectures on economics in addition to events related to the Arts and Humanities," said Carolyn West Pace, Ph.D., Professor in the Center of Arts & Humanities.

Some of this fall's highlighted events include:

- Sept. 9, Rome: Singer-songwriter Jen Chapin
- Sept. 17, Utica: "American Idol" musician Caleb Hawley
- Oct. 18, Utica: Election forum with IBOPE Zogby International Chair and Chief Insights Officer John Zogby
- Oct. 19, Stanley Theater: "How to Change the World with Your Bare Hands," a lecture by Newark, N.J. Mayor Cory Booker

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Honoring Employees for Years of Service

Mary Lourdes Summa was recently honored for 10 years of service to the college during a ceremony in her office. Mary Lourdes is a Senior Office Specialist I for the Recruitment and Outreach Office. On hand to help honor her were Celia Domser, Director of P-20 STEM ARC; and Barbara Wilson, Technical Assistant for Physics.

Chuck Svoboda returned in better health this fall to celebrate 15 years of service at MVCC in the Allied Health Department. Chuck is a Respiratory Care Professor, helping to make the program one of the best in Central New York. The entire nursing staff was on hand to celebrate Chuck, including Ann Dousharm, Patricia Fox, Professor Lorie Phillips, who is the Respiratory Care Program Coordinator; and President Randall VanWagoner.

Ralph Feola was honored over the summer for his 10 years of dedication to MVCC for keeping the lights on and overseeing operations. Ralph is the College's Vice President of Administrative Services. Joining in celebrating Ralph's service was President Randall VanWagoner and David Katz.

Broadhurst elected President of NATYCAA

MVCC's Gary Broadhurst continues to make a mark on the national stage after being elected President of the National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) during this year's national convention.

Broadhurst

Broadhurst previously served as the vice president for NATYCAA as well as being on the executive committee of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA). Earlier this spring, Broadhurst was selected to be the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) Region III Director of Women's Athletics.

Established in 1987, NATYCAA is the only professional organization that represents all two-year institutions of higher education in the United States for athletic administrators for the past 25 years. The organization is dedicated to the growth and development of two-year college athletics and the individuals involved through an exchange of information, promotion of academic excellence, and encouragement of a high degree of integrity in all endeavors.

As regional director Broadhurst will represent Region III on the national level in the women's division. He is the Associate Dean of Athletics and Physical Education at MVCC.

Broadhurst is in his 32nd year at MVCC and heads one of the most extensive and diverse two-year college intercollegiate athletic programs in the country. MVCC features 22 athletic programs which have won 19 team national championships and produced 115 individual national champions. He has served as Director of Athletics at MVCC since 1996.

Other honors Broadhurst has been recognized for include being named Community College Northeast Region Athletics Director of the Year by NACDA and receiving the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. He currently holds the academic rank of Professor and has been instrumental in the planning, development and construction of the new Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic/Events Center.

Did you know?

CCED enrolled 451 kids and teens this summer in Career Camps, a 60% increase over summer 2010?

Submit information for Communitas to Rich Haubert at rhaubert@mvcc.edu

MVCC establishes Pathways transfer agreement with Empire State College

The College formally entered into an agreement this week which eases transferability of community college credits to a four-year program leading to a bachelor's degree at Empire State College.

The Pathways Transfer Program is designed for MVCC students who have completed or will complete an associate degree, A.A., A.S. or A.A.S., prior to enrolling at Empire State College. Through the agreement, all of the credits earned at MVCC can be transferred toward a bachelor's degree, B.A., B.S. or B.P.S., at Empire State College providing a seamless transition for MVCC graduates.

"The number of MVCC students earning degrees for transfer has increased by nearly seven percent in the last five years, with the majority of them transferring to SUNY colleges and universities," says President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. "This creative new partnership with Empire State College gives MVCC graduates another, very flexible option for earning a SUNY baccalaureate degree without requiring them to relocate from the Mohawk Valley. As we focus on creating new opportunities for students and enhancing our local economy, partnerships like this one expand the capacity of MVCC and other educators to create positive change."

"The Pathways agreement removes barriers of time and place and makes it easier for Mohawk Valley Community College graduates to live and work in their communities while earning a SUNY Empire State College bachelor's degree," said SUNY Empire State College President Alan R. Davis. "Our partnership builds on the SUNY systemwide efforts facilitating student transfer, and President Randall VanWagoner and his team have done outstanding work in making today's agreement possible."

NEW TRANSFER AGREEMENT - President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., signs the Pathways Tranfer Agreement while Empire State College President Alan R. Davis looks on.

With appropriate advising, MVCC students may complete up to 80 lower-division credits including the associate degree at MVCC as long as the courses meet bachelor's degree requirements. The remaining 48 upper-division credits will be completed at Empire State College.

In addition, MVCC students can complete their bachelor's degree without leaving their communities.

Red Cross recognizes College for support

The American Red Cross recognized MVCC for its continued and extensive support of on-campus blood drives, which increased from 309 units to 363 units per year in 2010-11. As part of this recognition, the Central New York Chapter of the American Red Cross presented student John Coleman with a $250 scholarship.

"MVCC is a community that cares and many lives were saved. The American Red Cross cannot do its job without the support it receives from SUNY institutions like MVCC and we are extremely grateful," said Linda M. Belton, Account Manager for the American Red Cross Biomedical Services.

Belton was joined by President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. in presenting the scholarship to Coleman, who is seeking an Associate in Occupational Studies in Welding Technology and is President of MVCC Student Congress. Belton also presented Dr. VanWagoner with a plaque honoring the College's dedication to helping others in the community.

"This college is all about supporting and helping our neighbors, the families and communities of Oneida County and the surrounding counties," said Dr. VanWagoner. "Our students, faculty, and staff have continually stepped forward to do whatever it takes to make this a better place to live, play and work. It makes me proud to be part of such an organization."

With drives on its Utica and Rome campuses, MVCC increased the number of units collected from 309 in seven blood drives in 2009-10 to 363 units in nine blood drives this year.

RED CROSS SCHOLARSHIP - Linda M. Belton, Account Manager for the American Red Cross Biomedical Services, presented MVCC Welding Technology student John Coleman with a $250 scholarship in recognition of the continued support the college provides annually. She also presented President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., with a plaque honoring MVCC.

This scholarship is in conjunction with the SUNY-American Red Cross Blood Partnership which has existed for decades. Over the past four years, the SUNY colleges and universities increased the units of blood collected from 10,000 in 2006 to 17,000 units in 2010 for a 65 percent increase.

MVCC hosts September 11 exhibit in the IT Lobby

New York will open 30 exhibitions commemorating the Sept. 11 terrorism attacks next week throughout the state, including in Syracuse, Binghamton, Auburn, Ithaca, Utica, Watertown, and Norwich, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced. MVCC has been chosen to host a display of World Trade Center artifacts in the lobby of the Information Technology Building Lobby. The artifacts arrived on Tuesday in the IT Lobby for students, faculty and staff to view with the official opening of the exhibit to the public being held Monday, August 29.

The "New York Remembers" exhibitions will honor the victims of the terrorist attacks and the responders who worked on rescue and recovery efforts after two commercial jet planes hit the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

The exhibits will include a new collection of artifacts, including some items never before displayed such as damaged emergency vehicles, parts of damaged buildings, religious symbols created from steel wreckage, airplane fragments, and photographs and messages from victims' families.

The collections come from the New York State Museum and National September 11 Memorial & Museum. Other locations around the region include the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology in Syracuse; the Dulles State Office Building in Watertown; Binghamton University in Binghamton; and the Rothschild Building at Ithaca Commons in Ithaca.

MVCC's Nackley battles to help fallen officers

MVCC's own David Nackley will throw his hat in the ring to take part in the "CNY Battleground 4" kickboxing tournament which is helping to raise money for four area police officers.

Nackley

"I'm excited but also a bit nervous," said Nackley, who teaches English at the College. The event will be held Saturday, Aug. 27 at the New Hartford Recreation Center. Tickets are $20, $12 for children 10 and under. Doors open at 6 p.m. and fights begin at 7:30.

Organized by Heavy Hands Productions with the help of Capt. Wayne Manolescu, of the Utica Police Department, the event will feature five bouts together involving officers from area departments and members of the Oneida County probation department as part of a new Battle of the Badges fundraiser. Other bouts on the card include 10 Muay Thai amateur kickboxing fights with 25 percent of ticket sales will be donated to to four fallen officer funds, including those for New Hartford Officer Joe Corr, Utica Officer Thomas Lindsey, Oneida County Sheriff's Deputy Kurt Wyman, and New York State Trooper David Brinkerhoff.

The Battle of the Badges fights include a matchup between Kerry Carville, of the UPD, a veteran of several boxing matches, and Lindsay Abbott, of the DeWitt Police Department, who has trained in kickboxing but will make her boxing debut. All the fighters will wear protective gear, but no one is pulling any punches.

The fights will take place in a Mixed Martial Arts cage.

Among the local fighters in the Muay Thai competition will be Paul Randall, owner of the West End Barber Shop, and David Nackley, both fighting for the first time. Also, Paul McLean, owner of Powerclean Systems and is a manager of Cristiano's Tony's Pizza store in Washington Mills will face Sterling Mosher (6-1), of Albany, for the Central New York welterweight belt.

Visit heavyhandsproductions.com for more information.

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- Oct. 24, Utica: Grammy-nominated singer Vanessa Carlton
- Nov. 4, Rome: Guitarist Martin Sexton

More than 17,000 people attended a cultural series event last year, the largest attendance figure in series history, and this year the Cultural Events Council is expecting even more opportunities for students and people in our community to enjoy what the series has to offer.

"It's especially exciting because it's growing in both Rome and Utica – with off-campus partners, like the Rome Capitol Theater and the Stanley Theater, and outstanding new on-campus venues like the renovated Festine Auditorium on the Rome Campus," said President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. "And for the first time, the college's newest facility, the Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic and Events Center, will begin to live into its potential as a center for community activities."

According to Dustin, most Cultural Series events are $5 or less to the general public and many are free. Events include concerts, comedians, lectures, film screenings and discussions, workshops, family fun events, and more. For the complete series lineup and ticket sales visit www.mvcc.edu/culture. For ticketed events, tickets will be available in the online box office approximately 30 days before the event date.

The Box Office on the Utica Campus is located just outside the MVCC Theater (Room 106) within the Information Technology Building at 1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Rome Campus Box Office is located within the Registrar/ Business Office (PC117) on the 2nd floor of the Plumley Complex at 1101 Floyd Ave, Rome, NY. Hours of operation are Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Cultural Series is supported in part by MVCC's Challenge and Opportunity Major Gifts campaign (www.mvcc.edu/campaign) and by the MVCC Student Activity Fee. The series maintains a major social media presence that can be followed on Facebook at "MVCC Cultural Series."