



Alum makes major donation to Challenge & Opportunity drive

The College's "Challenge and Opportunity" campaign has been in motion for six months with an internal fund raising challenge and a silent campaign aimed at large donors. The third phase of the campaign began this week with the public announcement and the acknowledgement of the first large donor.

Stephen Mandia, Class of '85 and CEO of Mandia International Trading Corporation, made a

donation of \$250,000 toward the campaign's goal of \$7 million

"I am proud to support MVCC because I strongly believe in the incredible potential of our students," said Mandia, who was awarded the 2009 MVCC Alumnus of Merit for his success operating global businesses headquartered in Oneida County. "This college has transformed tens of thousands of students' lives and every part of the local workforce. I am excited about the new momentum MVCC and our partners are creating with the Challenge and Opportunity campaign."

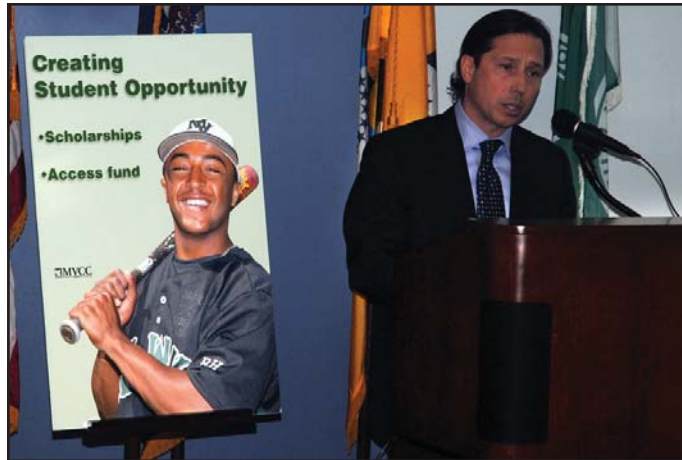
This is the first comprehensive major gifts campaign in the college's history with \$3.5 millions of the campaign's goal focused on endowing scholarships. Mandia's gift will help endow the Presidential Scholarships, which provide free tuition to Oneida County's best students.

In the lead gifts phase of the campaign, MVCC is soliciting six-figure and larger investments from the community's leading businesses, non-profits, and individual philanthropists. With more than \$1 million in campaign coffers to date, Challenge and Opportunity is on schedule to raise more than \$3 million during this phase, which will be followed by a major gifts phase and, in 2012, the public and final phase of the campaign.

"We are grateful to Steve for his exemplary generosity and we will make the most of his gift to our students. The prospects are bright for us to stretch and serve the Mohawk Valley in new ways," says President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. "This campaign isn't about bricks and mortar or plugging budget gaps. It's about working with campaign volunteers and donors to push educational frontiers. We will position MVCC to serve the Mohawk Valley in new ways. Together, we will build a community of learners who will be the economic leaders of tomorrow."

The campaign targets investments in four priority areas: Creating Student Opportunity, Breaking Barriers, Revitalizing Our Economy, and Educational Excellence Fund.

"As our community aspires to move forward, MVCC will play the pivotal role by closing educational gaps and extending opportunity to a wider audience of learners," says John Zogby, Chairman and Chief Insights Officer of Zogby International, Inc. and volunteer chair of the Challenge and Opportunity campaign. "Building on its record of success, MVCC will use this campaign to partner with generous people like Mr. Mandia and meet this community's educational needs in new ways."



Challenge & Opportunity Priority Areas

Creating Student Opportunity: With a focus on endowed scholarships, this is the campaign's largest priority and accounts for about half the \$7 million campaign goal. MVCC seeks to expand the number of funded Presidential Scholarships by more than 20 per year; support approximately 50 more students who just miss eligibility for financial aid; and endow several special scholarship funds.

Breaking Barriers: MVCC will seek to create a Fresh Start Fund for people returning to college after getting their lives back on track; endow an Emergency Relief Fund to support 20 to 25 students annually who might otherwise leave college because of homelessness or hunger; and provide free access to career camps for low-income primary school students, exposing them to the possibilities of college and career early enough to make a difference.

Revitalizing Our Economy: MVCC will seek to expand its services and programs for entrepreneurship; and create an education center in the Cornhill neighborhood of Utica.

Educational Excellence Fund: With donations in this area MVCC will launch several new degree and certificate programs in high-demand health care fields; further invest in the Cultural Series; and keep the latest technology in MVCC classrooms.

Molinaro College's new Controller

While Brian J. Molinaro is still getting to know people across the college, his work as the Controller is felt throughout the organization. Molinaro replaces Michael Chauvin, who retired in December after several years of outstanding service to MVCC.

"I have been working in education for most of my career, and when this opportunity came along I was excited about what I could bring to the position," said Molinaro, who began on January 10, 2011.

A resident of Little Falls, Molinaro comes to MVCC from Onondaga Community College where he was Comptroller for three years. Prior to OCC, he was the Comptroller at Upstate Cerebral Palsy for three years, Assistant Superintendent at Rotterdam-Mohonasen Central School District and Business Manager for both South Lewis Central School and Frankfort-Schuyler Central School districts over a 10-year period.

"I really enjoy working in education because college campuses are living, breathing entities which are full of excitement. You're able to see how you have helped the students," said Molinaro.

As the College's Controller, Molinaro is tasked with helping to come up with solutions for MVCC to weather financial cuts being made by the state. It was announced at the December Board of Trustees meeting that NYS cut funding back 15 percent last year, bringing state support to the same levels they were at in 2000. Governor Cuomo is proposing cutting state funding to community colleges by another 10 percent, sending the amount the state provides back to levels of the early 1990s.

"I have some ideas of how to streamline the processes in the business office which in turn will help other areas of the college," said Molinaro. The business office is responsible for purchasing, accounts payable, distribution of financial aid checks, the payment process for students and much more.



NEW CONTROLLER - Brian J. Molinaro is the new Controller in the business office at MVCC. He joined the College's community on January 10, 2011.

Molinaro said some of the challenges he faces immediately is learning where information is located and familiarizing himself with the faculty and staff who can help him the most. He said a Cultural Leadership Orientation program helped him clear some of these hurdles by getting to meet a wide cross-section of College employees in his first month on the job.

"It was a very unique program where I went out to introduce myself to people on campus and ask them about the culture. As part of the questions, you ask that person who I should talk to next. Everyone was extremely helpful and candid. Found David Katz really outstanding as I did Lew Kahler," added Molinaro.

Doherty wins national award for First-Year Experience

The College's First-Year Experience initiative has been in operation for two years under the direction of Elizabeth Doherty, College Advisor, and has already begun to show results with student retention and enrollment on the rise.



Doherty

For her hard work, Doherty was honored this month with the national award – Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate. This award is presented annually to just two individuals on the community college level. There are also eight awards presented to four-year colleges based on enrollment criteria. She was nominated for the award by Jennifer DeWeerth.

"This is a great honor because it demonstrates we are on the right track to helping our students achieve their goals," said Doherty, who came to MVCC in 2008 after completing her Master degree in Education/Higher Education Counseling from the University of Texas at Austin. "On average, nearly half of community college students don't remain in school after the first year. We are here to help break that cycle by providing resources designed to help them succeed."

The Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate award is presented by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, which is based at the University of South Carolina. It has been the mission of this organization for the past 30 years to support first-year students. These students range from returning adults, traditional students

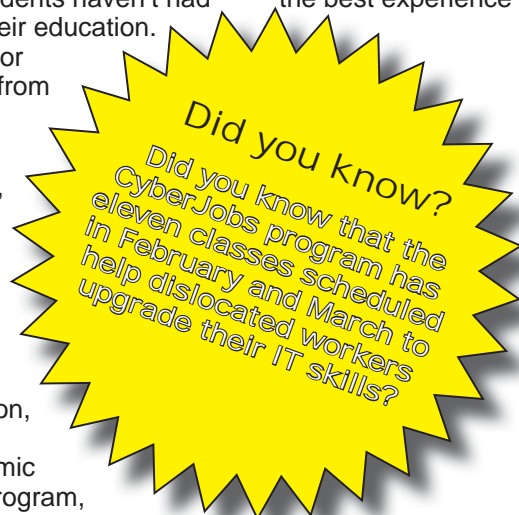
and other seeking to renew their work skills.

"Some of the students haven't had the best experience when it came to their education.

They may have poor study skills, come from a disadvantaged background or just don't know how to apply themselves," says Doherty.

Since joining MVCC, Doherty has been instrumental in reinventing the freshmen orientation, implementing the Pathway to Academic Recovery (PAR) program, organizing workshops where action plans can be developed for the students and applying the First-Year Communication Plan.

"We show these new students that we are excited about them coming here which in turn gets them motivated and excited about pursuing higher education. We also connect them with the resources at the college which will help them be successful," added Doherty.



Monday, February 14

9:00 am - East Asian Club, AB Lobby
 9:00 am - Valentine's Day Expo, AB Lobby/PH Lobby
 Noon - Comedian/Lecture: Ryan Clauson is "Mr. Attraction,"
 ACC 116

2:00 pm - Circle K meeting, ACC 212
 5:30 pm - CCED/Tai Chi: Beginners, ACC 116
 6:30 pm - CCED/Tai Chi: Advanced, ACC 116
 7:00 pm - Ballroom Dancing, IT Lobby 1st Floor(U)

Tuesday, February 15

3:00 pm - PTK Induction/Reception, IT Lobby 1st Floor
 4:00 pm - Black Student Union meeting, ACC 212
 4:30 pm - Drama Club meeting, ACC 114
 6:30 pm - CCED/Belly Dancing, ACC 116
 7:00 pm - MVCC Men's Basketball vs. Herkimer CCC, Gym

Wednesday, February 16

8:00 am - CCED/YWCA, IT 225
 4:00 pm - Program Board, ACC 212
 4:00 pm - Film Club meeting, IT 220
 4:00 pm - Step Team Club meeting, ACC 114
 4:30 pm - LSU meeting, IT 218
 7:00 pm - Comedian: Nore Davis, MV Commons
 7:30 pm - MVCC Concert Band, ACC116

Thursday, February 17

10:00 am - Brown Bag Lunch Series, ACC 116
 5:00 pm - BBG Dance, ACC 116
 6:00 pm - CCED/Connecting with Family, IT 219

Friday, February 18

2:00 pm - IF Club meeting, ACC 212
 3:30 pm - Black Student Union meeting, ACC 212
 4:00 pm - Chess Club, ACC 114
 6:00 pm - Poetry Club, ACC 212
 7:00 pm - Comedian: Flip Schultz, MV Commons
 7:00 pm - Concert: The Plastic Faction; RFA's Winner of Syracuse's "2010 Juniorpalooza: The Ultimate High School Battle of the Bands," Festine Auditorium

Saturday, February 19

1:00 pm - Black Student Union's Black
 History/Poetry/Luncheon, MV Commons

Sunday, February 20

1:00 pm - Utica AYSO Soccer Registration, MV Commons

College Works holds bottle/can drive for Rome Humane Society

The College Works on the Rome Campus will be holding a bottle and can drive to benefit the Rome Humane Society. Donations will be collected from Thursday, March 3, through Friday, March 18.

Drop-off Stations will be located outside the Registrar/Business Office (Plumley Complex Room 117) and the College Works Office (Rome Academic Building Room 215). Bottles and cans must be clean and dry.

College Works will be providing bins for the drop-off.

For more information, contact Tammy Irvin at extension 7775 or Kristen Bowers at extension 7700.

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



MVCC EMPLOYEES DONATE TO HELP ANIMALS - On behalf of MVCC's employees, Marie Kohl and President Randall J. VanWagoner presented a \$678 donation to the Stevens Swan Humane Society last week. The Stevens Swan telethon was held in IT 225 and broadcast on WKTV Channel 2. Accepting the check is WKTV news personality David Dellecese. The Stevens Swan Humane Society was selected by MVCC "Celebration of Success" attendees who purchased tickets for the basket raffle. Those who donated baskets for the raffle include Institutional Advancement, Irish Festival, Center for Language and Learning Design, CCED, Center for Life and Health Sciences, Kiddie Campus, AMVA, Professional Association, Educational Technologies, Innovation Center, Pam and Guy Snedeker, FYE/CTJP, Center for Arts and Humanities, Math/STEM, Aviation Training Center, College Outreach, Library Staff, The Learning Center, Maimum Khan, the President's Office, the Vice President for Learning Academic Affairs Offices, ASC/Student Activities/Dorm Corp., BISS (2), Sodexo, the Rome Dean's Office, and Adult Learner Services

Athlete of the Week

The men's basketball team is continuing its strong performance against Region III opponents to become ranked No. 8 in the nation.

This success has been a team effort with individuals shining and rising to the moment at different times of each game. Tymell Murphy was the player to step forward in the final week of January to lead the Hawks. For his performance, he was selected as MVCC Athlete of the Week.

Murphy averaged 14 points and 12 rebounds in three games leading up to the week. His efforts helped lead the Hawks to a 16-game winning streak.

Murphy is a freshman and General Studies major from Brooklyn.



Murphy

MVCC Faces: Jean Leandre



Jean Leandre is a familiar face on the Utica Campus, but he holds a new position which changes his responsibilities at the College. Leandre is the new Events Coordinator and responsible for many Cultural Series activities and events.

"As the Events Coordinator, I assist the Events Administrator in scheduling conferences and facility requests; assist in the management of cultural events and entertainment on both campuses, including budgets, revenue processing, and bookings," said Leandre. "I also coordinate staffing and supervision of expanded technical / events staff, as well as the DGV registration and MVCC's ticketing operations. I also serve as front of house manager and box office manager when the Administrator is unavailable."

During his past two years working at MVCC, Leandre worked under the grant funded program CSTEP (Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program). He has also been very active within the College community by volunteering to be part of the President's Think Tank Workgroup, Student Experience Workgroup, Pathways to Academic Recovery committee member, and MVCC's Alcohol Awareness Task Force. He is also an MVCC Alumni Association Board member, co-advisor to the Black Student Union & Caribbean Club, and advisor to the Flag Football Club.

"I really enjoy working with the students and helping them in any way I can," said Leandre. "Bill (Dustin) and I hope to build a more vibrant culture with MVCC's mission and vision statements as our driving force. In conjunction with both the Cultural Series and Diversity Global View committees, I hope to create a vibrant co-curricular life that supports seamless learning initiatives and educational opportunities."

When not at work, this Utica resident volunteers as a Board of Directors for the King of Kings Development Program & Summer Basketball Leagues, the Haitian American Cultural and Social Organization, the Utica/Oneida County Branch of the NAACP, and the Genesis Group's Welcome Student Initiative.

Leandre holds a Masters degree in Human Services - Executive Leadership from Liberty University. In his spare time he enjoys riding his motorcycle, eating and occasional travel.

"Bill and I will continue to serve as Central New York's number one platform for events and entertainment here at MVCC," added Leandre.



Dr. Searles poem is published

Dr. George J. Searles, Professor in the Center for Arts & Humanities, has authored a poem in the new issue of Seneca Review, a literary magazine published at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Green Tips ...

Recycle those reusable bags

There are two reusable bag companies that will accept bags back when their useful life is over, and then recycle them. One even gives a \$1 credit for the purchase of a new bag.

They are www.baggubags.com and www.flipandtumble.com.

Small Work Gallery features Frank Page

Cartoonist and illustrator Frank Page returned to the Utica Campus this week with a Lecture and Exhibit Opening of his work in the Small Works Art Gallery located on the second floor of the Information and Technology Building. Page's lecture was focused on "Finding Me In Myself." This topic came about from this thesis for his Masters degree in Visual/Sequential Art from the Vermont College of Fine Art. His final project was a 35-page graphic novel comic book.

"When I was working on my Masters, I came to realize a lot about myself. From looking at what other students in my program were producing and calling art, I discovered that I really wasn't that bad of an artist," said Page. "I would always put myself and my work down, but looking back on it now I see where I have grown."

Page has been a professional cartoonist for 13 years, landing his first major regular strip with Bob The Squirrel in 2002. His exhibit in the Small Works Gallery features over 140 drawings from his sequential art novel "Better Man."

This is the second time Page has lectured at MVCC and had an exhibit. His first was back in 2008. View Page's work online at www.bobthesquirrel.com.

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BETTER MAN - Frank Page, who is from Rome, gives a lecture on the discovery of himself within his work. He has been a professional cartoonist for 13 years.