



January Institute focuses on learning community

The Spring semester opened with some exciting conversations about learning communities within higher education and how this has proven to be a powerful learning tool. As part of the January Institute, Greg Hinckley from Seattle Central Community College and Joy Hardiman, Ph.D., from Evergreen State College in Washington State, held several seminars for faculty to explain in detail how learning communities have thrived at their colleges.

The day's events opened in the theater where the two guest speakers discussed the history and evolution of learning communities which have been around for about 30 years. "There have been major shifts on the kind of students being helped," said Hinckley, who is a professor of sociology. "Learning communities are evolving to address the changing demographics of student bodies."

That is to say one size does not fit all. When the idea of learning communities first came about, there was creativity but it became stagnant and that creativity faded. In the old model students needed to have the whole class, said Dr. Hardiman.

"You are moving from model to assignment which liberates both the students and teachers," said Dr. Hardiman. "You are connecting skills and knowledge from multiple sources and experiences and then applying to the subject matter. ... It doesn't matter how you get there, but it is important that you get there. We don't have to do cookie cutter teaching."

Both Dr. Hardiman and Hinckley gave examples of how they were able to use the students' real life experience in order to help them understand the subject matter being taught. They applied the students' life experiences and this also helped the other students in the class learn the information as they were able to



JANUARY INSTITUTE - Joy Hardiman, Ph.D., and Greg Hinckley were the keynote guest speakers for the January Institute which focused on learning communities within higher education.

view the correlation. "You start with inquiry and then you seek out what resources you need to come to the answer," said Dr. Hardiman. She went on to say the key words for successful learning communities are persistence, achievement rates and support.

At both Seattle Central CC and Evergreen State College, the success of learning communities was credited to the faculty's interest in looking at the trouble spots where students had difficulty moving forward. It was thinking and ideas of the faculty which created solutions to overcome these trouble spots.

Dr. Hardiman used combined statistics and jazz to help explain how mathematics work for her older students

and Hinckley applied daily water consumption as a method to demonstrate how each student has an impact on the environment.

"There are lots of creative ways to unjamming problem areas for students. We need to be able to link people's new knowledge with old knowledge," added Dr. Hardiman. By using multiple subjects, she was able to spark conversation among students as the information gained from one subject matter to another subject.

Dr. Hardiman stated that the power of the learning community is faculty driven by working as a team even though there are different approaches on teaching. "It opens up new ideas by combining the educational disciplines," she concluded.

Welcome Back For Spring 2011

Grant enables MVCC to launch CyberJobs

The College began the new year by kicking off the MVCC CyberJobs program, a training opportunity for area residents who seek new skills in high-growth job fields such as information technology and cybersecurity.

This is a free-of-charge program which helps individuals at any stage from entry level to expert. Its custom training programs are designed to fit the schedules of busy adults. The program will begin offering training in the next few months, with the full schedule to be developed in response to community demand.

The program is funded by a \$2.78 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant provides for up to 2,500 local people to receive training over three years. It is administered by MVCC in collaboration with more than 40 local partners.

"To revitalize the local economy we need a well-trained workforce, and CyberJobs is one creative way we are working with our partners to get that job done," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner Ph.D. "This program will help Mohawk Valley adults and young people get the skills and credentials they need to compete for good jobs. It's a compelling model for how colleges can attract investments that will significantly improve our region's jobs picture."

Applicants need not have prior IT or cybersecurity experience and it works by assessing individuals' skills and experience then matching them with the right non-credit courses, credit courses, and certifications to compete at the next step of the career ladder. CyberJobs trainees will receive grant-funded scholarships for all or part of the cost of training, depending on the programs selected.

CyberJobs Director Jake Mihevc said MVCC is also working with employers to upgrade skills of employed workers. "Wherever anyone is on the cyber career ladder, when they go through this program, they will leave it with more skills and be more employable than before."

For online pre-application visit MVCC at mvcc.edu/cyberjobs or visit the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Herkimer, Madison, and Oneida Counties at www.working-solutions.org. Paper pre-applications are available at CCED's offices and at the area's four Working Solutions One-Stop Career Centers:

- Working Solutions Utica: 209 Genesee Street (first floor)
- Working Solutions Rome: 300 W. Dominick Street
- Working Solutions Herkimer: 320 North Prospect Street
- Working Solutions Oneida: 1006 Oneida Plaza Drive

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. was on hand for the announcement of this new program. "Employers want skilled workers, and few skills are in demand today as much as those in the cyber area," Picente said. "This is a very exciting project because with all of the cybersecurity expertise we have in Oneida County through Rome Lab, through some great employers, and our outstanding colleges, there are great opportunities for anyone who wants to get ahead."

CyberJobs will feature MVCC's credit and non-credit courses with on-ground and online instruction, including "boot camp" training for certain topics. MVCC is working in partnership with the WIB and local colleges including Herkimer County Community College, Morrisville State College, Utica School of Commerce and the SUNY Institute of Technology.

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

Mihevc named director of cybersecurity program

Jake Mihevc of Little Falls, has accepted a position at Mohawk Valley Community College as Director of the Cybersecurity Training Program, CyberJobs.

Mihevc developed his background in Information



Mihevc

Technology in San Francisco during the dot com boom. He served as Western Region Technology Coordinator for Hotjobs.com, and Platform Engineer for Avinon Inc. He is a principal in the Little Falls based IT consulting company The Computer Clinic, and most recently served as a Business and Information Technology Instructor at MVCC.

Mihevc holds a Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Geneseo, and is pursuing an MBA in Technology at SUNY IT.

MVCC's program CyberJobs is free opportunity for trainees to get certifications and enhanced skills in information technology and cybersecurity, helping them compete for jobs in these growing fields.

Industries including health care, power grid management, green technologies and more are seeking people with better IT skills who can help keep data safe. CyberJobs' expert instructors prepare trainees for these careers with a grounding in mathematics, operating systems, network fundamentals, security, and computer science. Certification options range from a basic training certificate to the advanced Cisco and Microsoft credentials sought by today's employers.

Job Listings at MVCC

Title: Information Technology Instructors (Part-time)
Cybersecurity Training Program

Duties: MVCC is seeking qualified people for consideration as Information Technology (IT) Instructors for the CyberJobs Community Based Job Training Grant. A wide range of courses will be offered from IT fundamentals to advanced cybersecurity certification classes. Day, evening and "boot camp" format classes will be offered.

Qualifications: Combination of relevant education, experience and excellent communication skills required. Security+, Certified Ethical Hacker, or CISSP certification preferred.

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Application Deadline: Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until successful candidates is found.

Title: Student Activities Assistant (part-time)

Duties: Assists in the coordination, supervision, and planning of student events. This position requires late afternoon, evening and some weekend hours.

Qualifications: Associate's degree and experience in student activities or student personnel required. Bachelor's degree preferred.

Salary: \$12.00 per hour.

Application Deadline: Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until a successful candidate has been identified.

Monday, January 24

8:30 am – MVCAA, ACC 116
Noon - Art Lecture, IT 225
3:00 pm - Chess Club, ACC 114
4:00 pm - Oneida County Juvenile Fire Setter Program, IT 220
5:00 pm - CCED/Microsoft Word I, IT 219
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

Tuesday, January 25

10:00 am - Brown Bag Series, ACC 116
1:00 pm - Art Exhibit: Frank Page, Cartoonist and Illustrator,

Small Works Gallery
6:30 pm - CCED/Belly Dancing, ACC 116
8:00 pm - Listening Room Concert Series:

Michael Glabicki of Rusted Root, Festine Auditorium

Wednesday, January 26

2:00 pm - Brown Bag Series, ACC 116
Noon - Magician Adam Trent, MV Commons
4:00 pm - Program Board, ACC 212
5:00 pm - CCED/Microsoft Word I, IT 219
6:00 pm - Jitters Open Mic Night and Café, ACC Snack Bar
6:00 pm - Jitters Open Mic Night and Café, Festine Auditorium
7:00 pm - MVCC Men's Hockey vs. Oswego State, Utica Aud

Thursday, January 27

8:00 am - Steven-Swan Humane Society Telethon, IT225
6:00 pm - CCED/Getting Started with Windows, IT 219
7:00 pm - Ballroom Dancing, IT Lobby 1st Floor

Friday, January 28

6:00 pm - Film/Lecture (DGV): "Anatomy of Hate: Dialogue of Hope" w/Director Mike Ramsdell, Theater(U)
7:00 pm - Ballroom Dancing, IT Lobby 1st Floor

Saturday, January 29

8:00 am - Drinking and Driving Program, PC 207
9:30 am – Athletics Open House, Gym Lobby
11:00 am - CCED/Digital Photography Basics, IT 219
1:00 pm - MVCC Women's Basketball vs. Clinton CC, Gym
2:00 pm - Film/Lecture (DGV): "Anatomy of Hate: Dialogue of Hope" w/Director Mike Ramsdell, Festine Auditorium
3:00 pm - MVCC Men's Basketball vs. Clinton CC, Gym

Sunday, January 30

2:00 pm - MVCC Hockey vs. Albany University, Utica Aud

Save the date for March Institute

Hi folks,

After a very well attended and received January Institute we are moving ahead with plans for the MARCH INSTITUTE on Monday, March 14, from 8:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. in the IT Building. We hope to have the detailed schedule and on line registration up within a few weeks. For now we just want to give you a heads up so you can save the date. The plenary at 11:00 am looks to be informative and fun! As always, let us know if you have any interests you would like us to address through one of our "Institutes". Have a nice day.

David R. Katz III

Coordinator of Faculty & Staff Enrichment

2011 Retirement Incentive Program info sessions

On Monday, December 20, 2010, the MVCC Board of Trustees approved the College to offer a retirement incentive to eligible employees in the following units:

UPSEU - 8 elections available

Professional Association (PA) - 4 elections available

AMVA and Excluded Administrators - 8 elections available

Where elections per unit exceed the available election numbers as stated above, benefits will be granted to employees by seniority with the College.

To be eligible for the incentive you must meet the following conditions:

- Must meet all eligibility requirements for retirement as provided by the New York State Employee and Teachers Retirement System (ERS and TRS) or SUNY Optional Retirement Plan (ORP).
- Have attained a number of combined years of service with the College and age that equals eighty (80) or more on May 31, 2011.
- Must submit a letter of intent to retire no later than March 31, 2011, which said letter becomes an irrevocable letter of resignation for the purposes of retirement on or before May 31, 2011.

Due to tax laws, the College is eligible to offer legally approved benefit options of which each employee unit as described above can elect one benefit option.

At this meeting, unit members and unit representatives will be provided with information to assist them in making an informed decision. Each unit may then survey their eligible members and submit to the College a benefit election form for their eligible unit membership electing one benefit option as described below.

Available options include:

- A) A fixed dollar amount contribution towards health insurance premiums until benefit dollars is exhausted.
- B) A combination of a fixed dollar amount towards health insurance premiums (amount must be the same for everyone and as agreed upon with the College) and the remaining fixed dollar contribution to either a SUNY approved 403(b) plan or taken in a taxable cash payment.
- C) A taxable cash payment.
- D) Payroll deduction into a SUNY qualified 403(b) account.

BOT 2011 meetings dates

With the start of new calendar year, MVCC's Board of Trustees have announced the schedule for their monthly meetings.

Other than the May meeting which will be held on the Rome Campus, the other months' meetings will be held in Room 300 on the third floor of Payne Hall. These meetings are open to the public and the College community, starting at 4 p.m.

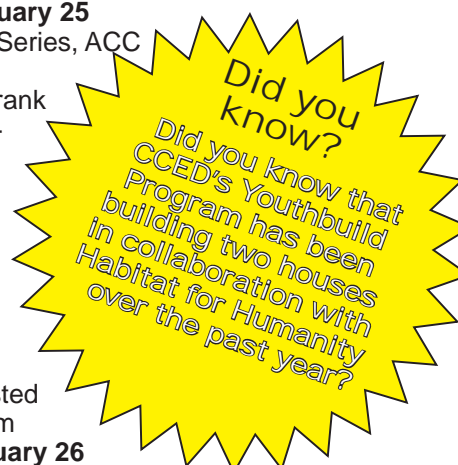
While there won't be a meeting for the month of February, the following dates are: Monday, March 7; Monday, April 18; Monday, May 16 (Rome Campus); Monday, June 20; Monday, July 18; Monday, August 15; Monday, September 19; Monday, October 17; Monday, November 21; and Monday, December 19.

Meeting Dates

Monday, January 24, 2011
1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011
9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

Friday, January 28, 2011
2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.
All meetings are in the Board Room, 3rd Floor, Payne Hall.



Athlete of the Week

While the MVCC ice hockey team is in rebuilding year, the Hawks have a bright future on the shoulders of freshman Ryan Alesandro.

The Hawks skated to a 2-2 tie against the larger Rochester Institute of Technology Club this past week with Alesandro scoring both goals for MVCC from the forward's position. This performance earned him the honor of MVCC's Athlete of the Week.

A graduate of Proctor High School, Alesandro is majoring in accounting.

To see the Hawks in action, visit MVCC's athletic website for complete schedule.



Alesandro



Security receives AED training

MVCC's Security personnel participated in an American Heart Association AED course on Wednesday, January 12. Certified instructors who collaborated in teaching this course included Lorie Phillips and Debbie Waterman from Respiratory Therapy and Pamela Fess from Nursing.

AED is a classroom course that teaches basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) skills through group interaction and hands on participation.

When questioned why she felt offering this course was important Phillips stated "In light of the college's recent loss of colleagues, Sam Drogo and Terrance Burke I feel it is everyone's responsibility to create a heightened awareness for this type of training."

Fiore is published in health magazine

MVCC Professor Jim Fiore, of Marcy, has published an article in the Fall 2010 issue of *Hearing Health Magazine*. The article is entitled *The Four Components of Sound* and details how humans perceive and categorize sound based on attributes such as pitch and loudness. *Hearing Health Magazine* is produced by the Deafness Research Foundation.

Professor Fiore has taught electrical circuits and electronics courses at MVCC for nearly 30 years. He recently developed and teaches the natural science elective Science of Sound and authored a text book entitled *Operational Amplifiers and Linear Integrated Circuits*, now in its second edition, and uses it to teach the class of the same name. He holds an Associate in Applied Science in Electrical Technology from MVCC, and a Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering Technology, and a Master of Science in Computer and Information Systems from SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome. He also studied Music at Cortland State University.

He has been a member of the Audio Engineering Society for more than 30 years, and has developed commercial audio software including a loudspeaker CAD system and an audio waveform editor and analyzer.

He is also an avid runner and musician.



Fiore



BIG APPLE ROAD TRIP - Members of MVCC's Phi Beta Lambda visited the NASDAQ in New York City to cap off the Fall semester. There were 18 students who took part in the closing bell ceremony and the group was also able to attend the taping of *Stock Market Weekly* in the Times Square Studios. Students also had the opportunity to visit the New York City Library, Madison Square Garden, Empire State Building and the Rockefeller Center.

Athletic Open House is January 29

The College will host its Fourth Annual Athletic Open House on Saturday, January 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Utica Campus. Student-athletes will have an opportunity to learn what MVCC has to offer both on the field as well as in the classroom.

Following the 9:30-10 a.m. registration, those in attendance will enjoy a presentation on MVCC's academic programs and available financial aid packages. There will be staff members on hand to answer all questions. Student-athletes will also have an opportunity to meet with coaching staff.