

Four students presented prestigious scholarships

As a testament to the quality work being performed by MVCC's engineering faculty and staff along with the program's high standards, the College had four students honored and awarded scholarships last month from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Clarkson University.

These outstanding engineering science students were presented their awards totaling \$78,000 in transfer scholarships during the annual Mohawk Valley Executive Engineers Council Banquet, held on February 17.

"It is very prestigious for a two-year engineering school to receive these awards," says Professor Celia A. Domser. "To have such prestigious awards says that we have an outstanding program and our students are well-prepared for a four-year engineering science program."

What may be considered the highest honor went to Tim Ramos, son of Maria and Tim Ramos, as he was presented the Professor Joseph H. Smith, Jr. '45 Engineering & Science Medal from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. This Medal is given to only 24 schools across the nation. The award is in the amount of \$20,000. Ramos is a graduate of Rome Free Academy.

Jason Ritzel, a graduate of Holland Patent High School and the son of Corinne and Richard Ritzel, was awarded a Transfer Leadership Scholarship from Clarkson University, totaling \$22,000.

Thomas R. Proctor High School graduate Nathan Bruno, son of David and Patricia Bruno, and David Albright, a graduate of Oriskany High School and the son of Glenn and Deborah Albright, were both awarded the Transfer Achievement



TOP STUDENTS IN ENGINEERING SCIENCE - MVCC had four students honored last month during the annual Mohawk Valley Executive Engineers Council Banquet. The students were presented with scholarship awards to two prestigious engineering universities. They are, from left, Nathan Bruno, Tim Ramos, David Albright and Jason Ritzel.

Scholarship to Clarkson University worth \$18,000 each.

The Renssalear Medal has been awarded to an MVCC Engineering graduate for over 60 years while the Clarkson Scholarships have been awarded for the last five years.

"MVCC has been privileged to be awarded two scholarships from Clarkson, but this year a third scholarship was awarded which makes all of us very proud of our outstanding engineering science students," added Domser.

Showing support for MVCC's Japanese students

Dear College Community,

Currently, MVCC hosts 11 Japanese students. When the tsunami hit, many were anguished because they could not establish communication with their families. Even after establishing communication, aftershocks and radiation contamination are causing circumstances to continuously shift, creating on going concerns for family and friends in Japan.

For your reference, the NAFSA: Association of International Educators website published a Japan Crisis: Information and Resources link that may be of interest when dealing with Japanese students: http://nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=25422

Because much of Japan's infrastructure is compromised.

sending items (e.g. food, clothing, housewares) is not recommended. Instead, monetary contributions are preferred for Japanese victims of the tsunami. Please show your support by making a donation. An easy (and reputable) way to contribute is through The Red Cross text message donation program. For more information, go to: https://american.redcross.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=ntld_nolnav_text2help

Thank you in advance for your support of international education at MVCC and of our international students from Japan.

Sincerely

Darla Maffei, M.I.M./PDSO

Coordinator of Services for International Students

Communitas 1

Criminal Justice students reach out into the community



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - Associate Professor Carolyn D'Argenio and Criminal Justice student Jeff Fedor pose with members of the Oneida County Sheriff's Department at Utica's Children's Museum. Below, Fedor teaches 7-year-old Sam about fingerprints.



The College's students and employees have always demonstrated a willingness to give back to the community on many levels. This willingness was once again demonstrated when students from Carolyn D'Argenio's Introduction to Criminal Justice (CJ101) class participated in a service-oriented community awareness project over the past several months.

The students volunteered for many organizations, including the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Utica Zoo, and the Refugee Center, to name a few. Last semester, students adopted a cottage at the House of the Good Shepherd and gathered over \$900 in holiday gifts (so much that the HGS was able to share the items with other cottages).

Students also helped collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and cell phones for victims of domestic violence. Some created educational and public service materials. Two students created materials for the Children's Museum.

Jeff Fedor created a poster display on the history and use of fingerprints while Timothy Scharrett created an interactive DNA Question and Answer presentation. One student translated domestic violence materials into Bosnian as another created awareness ribbons to promote awareness of same-sex domestic violence.

"I am so proud of their contributions and know they leave the semester more aware of community issues and ways they can help," said D'Argenio.

On February 11, 2011, D'Argenio's former student Jeff Fedor joined her and the Oneida County Sheriff's Department for an interactive display. Fedor taught children how to take their fingerprints and compare them to one of the major search patterns. D'Argenio has been working with Deputy Peter Servello on a project which presents informational material to museum visitors on such topics as anti-bullying and gang prevention.

According to Servello, the Oneida County Sheriff's Department is looking forward to working with Criminal Justice students on various community relations projects.

Understanding reality of life after school

MVCC played host recently to The Reality Store which is a program run through the Indiana chapter of Professional Business Women (PBW).

Co-sponsored by the College's CSTEP-STEP, the program offered high school students an opportunity to experience what life may be like as they enter adulthood. Each student chose the profession which they believed they would like to enter in their future. Then 18 booths were established where students could set up bank accounts, pay student loans, purchase a home, cart, pay utilities and child care while also learning how to be financially responsible.

The Reality Store is a fully functioning interactive way to "play the game of Life," says Kim Overrocker, Director of School and Community Outreach at MVCC and a member of the Mohawk Valley Women's Association. The booths were manned by businesses and professionals from the area who were willing to share their expertise and education.

The event wrapped up with the 25 community volunteers sharing their educational and professional backgrounds with the students and advising the students on the ups and downs of "real life."

More than 30 Proctor High School students participated this year and based on the success, there are plans to expand this event and include other schools in Oneida County in the future.



This program helped CSTEP and STEP participate and fulfill grant requirements as a Day Of Service activity encompassing information on STEM and licensed professions, and included education on financial literacy.

2 Communitas

Button's impact to be felt for years to come

When Rose Button walks out the door in a few weeks and into retirement, her impact on the College will be felt for years to come. Since joining MVCC on January 10, 1980, she has seen and dealt with the best and worst the student body could muster. And she handled it all with grace and style.

"I will miss speaking with the students and parents and trying to prepare the students for success," said Button, who departs MVCC as Assistant Dean for Student Support after 31 years. "I've really enjoyed working here even though there were some really tough years when I was dealing with disciplinary actions."

Button joined the College as a counselor. In July of 1985, she was appointed the Director of Student Life, a post she held for the next 13 years. "I was in charge of the residence halls, the budget, hiring and firing of staff, discipline of students. They were some tough years," she added. "When I came out of those 13 years, I had a much better understanding of students in trouble. I developed a much more direct approach than I ever did. An important lesson was there is no time to dance around an issue."

Button credits Denise DiGiorgio as the reason for her being able to handle the difficulties she faced as the Director of Student Life. "No matter what the crisis was, before we hung up the phone we were both laughing about something. I was always appreciative of how she helped relieve the pressure which I was dealing with at the time."

In 1998, Button returned to her first love of counseling students. With a great concern for the students' mental and physical health, she has worked to keep the students' well-being in the forefront.

"I am very concerned that people don't realize the help we are going to need with the growing number of returning



Monday, March 28

10:00 am - Survive! Workshop with Debbie and Mike Gardner

1:00 pm - Oneida County Health Department -

Bed Bug Open Forum, Theate

2:00 pm - Survive! Workshop with Debbie and Mike Gardner, Festine Auditorium

Tuesday, March 29

1:00 pm - Lecture (DGV): Ireland, IT 225

7:00 pm - Lecture (DGV): "Teaching and Living in Eastern Turkey" w/Dr. Tom Cronin, Chair of Natural Sciences Departme at SUNY Cobleskill, IT 22

Wednesday, March 30

8:00 am - Spring Career Fair, IT Lobbies/IT218/IT220/IT225

7:00 pm - Comedian: Andy Hendrickson, Theater

7:30 pm - MVCC Concert Band, ACC 116

Thursday, March 31

11:00 am - Open Forum: Civility and Respect, Theater

2:00 pm - Lecture: "Cyber Security" w/Joe Giordano, IT 225

5:30 - Relay for Life, IT 225

7:00 pm - Film: "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part I,"

Theate

7:00 pm - Comedian: Andy Hendrickson, Theater

Friday, April 1

6:00 pm - Rehearsal: Broadway Pops International Presents

"Behind the Mask," Theate

7:00 pm - Fundraiser/Basketball: Utica Rotary's "Takes a MAN to be a DAD," Champions for Children vs.

Harlem Ambassadors, Gyl



veterans, the number of students who are on medication and have trouble adjusting to proper classroom behavior. There are so many students who need a helping hand to figure things out," says Button.

One of her joins has also been talking to the RAs and preparing them teaching them for what they are going to run into. The challenges they are going to face with today's students who think they are untouchable when it comes to the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

Now, as Button heads into retirement, she is planning on spending time with her ailing mother and visiting more with family in Chittenango. Her goal is also to finish the book she has been writing on the Erie Canal as well as several other literary projects she says "there is never enough time to work on."



Communitas 3

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

months as the new Director of Facilities and Maintenance Operations at the College, but he took some time out to be honored for his dedication and hard work. Mike has been with MVCC for 10 years, joining the staff on January 29, 2001.

No moss grows under the feet of Pete Rabisz as he zooms around the Utica Campus and out to Rome with the College's mail deliveries. Pete was recognized for 10 years of service to MVCC performing his duties as Mail Courier. Pete joined MVCC on February 5, 2001.





Colleen Kehoe-Robinson was recognized for 10 years of service this week by President VanWagoner and her co-workers. Colleen is a Librarian and Associate Professor on the Utica Campus. She joined MVCC on January 15, 2001.



Job Listings at MVCC

Title: Assistant to the President

Duties: Responsible for independently performing daily operations management and providing primary administrative support associated with the President's Office and serves as Secretary to the Board of Trustees. The Assistant schedules appointments and maintains calendars; makes travel arrangements for the President and Board of

Trustees members; plans, coordinates and attends as appropriate College events: prepares Board of Trustees meeting agendas, takes minutes; and assists the President and members of the Cabinet with special projects as needed.

Qualifications: Associate's degree; general office technology and operational skills; and five (5) years of related professional experience required. Executive level office experience and ability to manage conflicting priorities preferred. Essential characteristics include self-starter, dependability: confidentiality: integrity: cooperation: attention to detail; empathy; and concern for others.

Salary: Starting salary in the \$40s.

Applications Deadline: Review of applications will begin March 28 and continue until a successful candidate has been identified.

Green Tips: Sobering facts about plastic bags

- * 500 billion 1 trillion used annually world-wide
- * Takes from 400-1000 years to degrade in the environment
- * 8 billion pounds of them enter the waste stream each year
 - * Turns into tiny, toxic particles as they degrade, and eventually enter the food chain
 - * Kills over 100,000 sea turtles and other marine and land animals each year
 - * Manufacturing them uses 60-100 million barrels of oil yearly & adds tons of carbon emissions into the air
 - * Banning them in England would have the same environmental impact as would taking 18,000 cars off the road
 - * Costs U.S. retailers \$4 billion a year a cost that is passed on to the consumer
 - * Blocks storm drains and sewers, causing flooding and keeping flood waters from receding

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

Communitas

CCED Now offers a

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