Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of March 7, 2011

Ianno aims to simplify admissions

When it comes to recruiting students for MVCC, Dan Ianno takes the same approach he does as a coach on the athletic field. Show the prospects everything the institution has to offer and demonstrate how it will benefit them.

"Some of the challenges I have faced have been getting a grasp on the administrative side of the desk," said Ianno, the new Director of Admissions. Ianno replaced Denis Kennelty, who retired after 37 years at MVCC. "With Denis being here so long, I needed to review the processes in order to expand on those which work very well and modify others in order for the college to move forward in its current direction."

The processes in the Admissions Office are nothing new to Ianno, who has been with MVCC for 13 years. He started out in 1998 as an admissions counselor and was elevated to Assistant Director of Admissions four years ago. When Kennelty retired at the conclusion of the spring semester, Ianno stepped in as interim Director of Admissions. Following a national search, Ianno was officially named Director of Admissions in November of 2010.

"I really want to simplify the admissions process by working with other areas at the college such as placement testing, advisement and Adult Learner Services. I don't think the admission process should be complex and we need to make it as easy as possible for students coming into the college," said Ianno.

In his new role, Ianno has been seeking out feedback from other areas of the college with the goal of streamlining some processes. "I want to be approachable with new ideas, but they have to realize that the student comes first."

Ianno has most recently helped secure 12 consecutive semesters of enrollment increases. He is quick to point out it has been a team effort by everyone in Admissions and other offices to achieve this level of success.

"We have been working with local counselors in order to educate them on what MVCC has to offer. The plan is to strengthen these relationships with local high schools and community organizations. To get out there and see what we can do to help the local population," said Ianno, who has been working closely with Janet Visalli and her staff in Adult Learner Services. Approximately 22 percent of the College's enrollment is non-traditional students.

THE ADMISSIONS TEAM - Dan Ianno, the new Director of Admissions, has an incredible team working for him as MVCC has enjoyed 12 semesters of increased enrollment. They are: Darla Maffei, Karin Capuana, Jason LaFountain, Dan Ianno, Karen Kuznia, Phil Benson, Sandy Fiebiger, Jessica Gregory, Josie Pintacuda, and Lyndsay Hart.

One of the successful programs Ianno implemented in his former position was the Guidance Counselors Workshop, which invited high school counselors from Oneida, Herkimer, Madison and Lewis counties to the Utica Campus. In the three years of hosting this event, attendance has doubled each year.

"I could not have been successful here without the support of the people who work here. That is what is so great about MVCC. There is a room full of people who have helped me in my 13 years and I will continue to ask for that support in order to keep MVCC a success story," said Ianno.

Ianno is also stoking the fires for MVCC to catch up on social media technology in order to communicate with prospective students more effectively. But, at the same time he is not going to forget the College's traditional students.

Ianno is a native of New Hartford, where he still lives with his wife Marye, and works as an assistant coach for the MVCC men's soccer team for the past 12 years. He attended MVCC for one year before transferring to SUNY Oswego where he earned his Bachelor Degree.

Adjunct Instructor Recruitment Fair

The College will be hosting and Adjunct Instructor Recruitment Fair on Monday, March 21, from 5-7 p.m. in the lobby of Payne Hall on the Utica Campus. This will give potential adjuncts the opportunity to meet with Academic Center Deans, Assistant Deans and faculty from the College.

If anyone within the College community knows of an individual interested in sharing their professional skills as an adjunct at MVCC, have them bring three-to-five copies of their resume to the Adjunct Recruitment Fair.

They can visit the MVCC website at www.mvcc.edu/jobs for a listing of primary needs and degree/experience requirements.

MVCC is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

MVCC Faces: Sarah Tierney

With the Rome Campus enrollment growing at impressive rates, the need for helping students make the transition into college has become even more critical. As the Student Success Specialist for the Rome Campus over the past 13 months, Sarah Tierney has stepped up to every challenge which has walked through the door of the Student Service Center, located in the Plumley Science and Technology Complex.

"I have a hundred and one goals to achieve in this position, but most of all, I would like to continue to bring fresh and creative ways to make the Rome Campus' activities, events and community endeavors better than ever before," said Tierney.

In the position of Student Success Specialist, Tierney's responsibilities are diverse. Her duties include being the Rome Student Activities Adviser, Cultural Event Representative, Student Services Generalist, and Rome Campus Bulletin Board Expert. Tierney joined the MVCC community in January 2010 and quickly made her presence felt by taking on the roles of secretary and Rome Campus representative to the Cultural Events Council, joining the Orientation Committee as well as the Welcome Week Committee, Community Ambassadors Committee, and Team MVCC.

"Having grown up in the Rome, making this campus the best it can be is very important to me. The Rome Campus is an important part of the culture in the City of Rome," said Tierney. Tierney is a graduate from Marist College, located in Poughkeepsie, where she earned both her Bachelors and Masters in Psychology.

Other responsibilities Tierney has taken upon herself include Coordinator of MVCC's involvement in Rome Chamber of Commerce events such as last summer's Canal Fest Booth and Honor America Days Parade Float, and this coming summer's Rome Home Show Booth.

Sarah also volunteers with the American Red Cross and Rome Humane Society. Her hobbies include painting, making jewelry, calligraphy, and all sorts of crafting. Most recently she condensed her artistic pastimes into a Web venture (www.sarahbethtierney.com).

MVCC walks in memory of Sam

Team MVCC's efforts for the annual America's Greatest Heart Run/Walk was a huge success this year with the focus placed on the memory of Sam Drogo. Students, faculty, staff and family members came out to support last Saturday's event.

With a goal of $5,000, Team MVCC surpassed it by raising more than $7,000 with Professor Bill Perriotti being the top fundraiser with more than $1,200. Right behind him was Sandy Cummings from Student Services with $850 as there were approximately 200 people helping.

"I just wanted to express my personal thanks to the many folks who participated in, contributed to and otherwise supported the Team MVCC ... "For Sam" effort at this year's event," wrote Perriotti in an email. "I know there were also many others who could not be at the event but who were with the MV walkers and runners in spirit on Saturday. I believe we far exceeded past numbers participating and in the total amount of money donated."

The event as a whole raised more than $1.1 million. Team MVCC's donation was made in the name and memory of Sam Drogo, who passed away at the start of the fall semester. Also taking part in this year's event was Sam Drogo's son, Michael.

Wrote Perrotti, "For Michael, he heard so many unsolicited remembrances of Sam especially from Sam's many students that he got further proof of the special qualities that were his dad's."

March Institute brings humor to how we interact with technology

Unless we move to an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, it is almost impossible to escape modern technology. Monday's March Institute will be add a bit of intrigue and humor to the ever changing trend with the presentation "Espresso and Herbal Tea: Finding Human Moments in the Age of e" by visiting professor Renée Downey Hart, Ph.D., at 11 a.m. in IT 225.

Dr. Hart's presentation will shine light on the concept that humans have moved from living on farms to living in cities to now living on the internet. In this humorous and interactive session as Dr. Hart explores this age of speed and hustle, and invites everyone to question their own engagement during the average business day. She will also redefine leisure and cultivate friendships on the computers, pods, phones and pads.

Everyone will be surprised at their levels of engagement, but question whether these interactions have the same power as those of years past when a knock on the door was more common than a text-tone from a pocket, and shooting baskets required an actual court. So take some time off from that daily routine and discover how technology has begun to run our lives.

Dr. Hart is a visiting Assistant Professor in the Business Division at Le Moyne College in Syracuse. Prior to joining the faculty three years ago, she was a partner in the firm of Eagle Consultants in Syracuse, an international organizational development firm. Her years of consulting from the Silicon Valley to the Valley of the Kings in Egypt offered her wonderful vantage points from which to explore the emergence of our Age of "E."

Did you know?

CCED has partnered with Microsoft to bring the My PC Series to the Utica/Rome area. The series is an understandable, jargon-free computer classes for adult learners and covers the basics of using Windows 7.

America's Greatest Heart Run/Walk

Feedback sought for classroom upgrades

Dear Colleagues:

Assessing the classroom environment and recommending necessary changes to classrooms and academic facilities remain as Initiatives in the College's 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Annual Strategic Plans. To accomplish this, the College Facilities Committee is once again asking for comments about spaces used for instruction at both campuses and all off-campus sites.

Comments may be general or room-specific and can include (but not limited to) comments on features such as furniture type and arrangement, room scheduling, availability and arrangement of in-class technology, access, noise, temperature and ventilation.

Please e-mail comments to Don Kelly (dkelly@mvcc.edu). Thank you for your help.

Health Center holds free clinics on March 23

The College's Student Health Center will be hosting a Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Clinic on the Utica Campus on Wednesday, March 23, from 1-3 p.m. This clinic is free and will provide the vaccine men and women between the ages of 19-26.

Sponsored by the Oneida County Public Health, there will also be a second Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) and Meningitis Clinic for the spring semester. The minimum cost for MMR is $5 based on a sliding scale determined by income and insurance accepted.

The Meningococcal is vaccine runs approximately $120 for those students 19 years and older, who choose to receive it. The Meningitis vaccine (or Menactra) is not a mandatory requirement for attending MVCC.

Oneida County Public Health is also offering free "Tdap and Pneumonia" vaccines as well on this day.

For questions or other information, contact Anne Popeo, College Nurse, at 792-5683.

NEW WHEELS IN ROME - The College's Airframe and Powerplant Technology program recieved a new piece of equipment this month with the arrival of this Piper Cherokee 140. This aircraft is fully functional and was flown to the Rome site at the end of last month. The aircraft was purchased through a U.S. Department of Education equipment grant. The Piper Cherokee is a family of light aircraft designed for flight training, air taxi, and personal use. It features an all-metal, unpressurized fuselage with a single piston-powered engine and low-mounted wings. The aircraft has a single door on the co-pilot side, which is entered by stepping on the wing. Piper Aircraft has been making this model since the early 1960s and has created variations within the Cherokee family by installing engines ranging from 140 to 300 horsepower. (Source: Wikipedia)

Smoking policy survey

Because of the evidence supporting the negative effects of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke, the MVCC Safety Committee would like to recommend measures to provide the best environment for smokers and non-smokers.

To research the best methods to support this effort, students, faculty and staff are being asked to complete a short, anonymous survey. The results of the survey will be used to formulate recommendations on a smoking policy to be presented for approval by the College Senate.

The current Board of Trustees-approved MVCC smoking policy states: "Smoking is prohibited in all Utica and Rome campus buildings and in all designated outdoor areas, effective July 1, 2010."

The survey will take only a few minutes to complete and can be accessed with this link: www.surveymonkey.com/s/Smoking-PolicySurvey.