Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of November 28, 2011

PROVIDING ENCOURAGEMENT - David Nackley, left, Dr. Jonathan Meeter, and Michelle Scranton (not pictured) were the recipients of the inaugural Spirit of Service Award during the annual Non-Traditional Student Week. The award honors those faculty who encourage, inspire, assiste, and made a lasting impression on non-traditional students.

Adult students honor faculty with the Spirit of Service Award

As a part of MVCC's non-traditional student week celebrated in early November, adult students were given the opportunity to recognize faculty members whom they felt have encouraged, inspired, assisted, and or otherwise made a lasting impression on them while attending MVCC.

The Spirit of Service award, created by the Adult Learner Services Office, showcases instructors who go the extra mile to assist adult students on campus. "So often we hear the negative, we felt it was important for students to be able to share their gratitude with someone who has made a difference in their lives" stated Patti Antanavige, Student Services Specialist in the Adult Learner Services Office.

More than 70 students nominated both full-time and adjunct instructors from both campuses. Due to the overwhelming response, the committee had a difficult decision deciding on just one person to receive the award. A committee member had this to say about the selection process: "So many of the students wrote inspiring stories about how their nominee went above and beyond to help them. One nomination after the other, their stories were amazing." On the committee's recommendation, Adult Learner Services decided to recognize three faculty members.

Dr. Jonathan Meeter, David Nackley, and Michelle Scranton were chosen as the first recipients of the Spirit of Service Award. The winners were recognized at the Non-Traditional Student Week Celebration Dinner held on November 11.

Adult Learner Services also sent every instructor who was nominated for the award a card that included the nomination received from the students. "We felt it was important for all nominees to receive the positive comments made by our students" said Antanavige.

A week of celebrating Non-Traditional Students

The first full week in November, also known as Non-traditional Student week, was celebrated at MVCC through the efforts of the Adult Learner Services Office. This national recognition week has been celebrated with events on both campuses for three years. Who are non-traditional students? The broad definition of non-traditional students is anyone over the age of 25 or who meets one or more of the following characteristics: works full time, is a single parent, or is a U.S. military veteran.

About one third of MVCC's student population is over 25 with the majority of such students between the ages of 25 and 39.

New to the offerings for the 2011 Non-traditional Student Week was a family event in which students were invited to bring their families on campus to enjoy an evening of fun. Kiddie Campus pitched in with activities and face painting. The evening culminated with a performance "The Magic of Virgil" compliments of Student Activities.

Other highlights from the week's events included root beer floats and a raffle on the Rome campus, in addition to "Thank you Thursday" which was held on both campuses. Students were given the opportunity to thank a staff or faculty member who they felt had assisted them in their education at MVCC.

Alumni Association elects new officers

Mohawk Valley Community College's Alumni Association recently held elections for the officers who will serve during the 2011-2012 academic year. The responsibilities of these elected officers is to act as liaisons between the alumni and the College while promoting MVCC with current and future students. The officers are:

- President - Gene Militello, Class of 1984
- Vice President - James Hamer, Class of 1970
- Treasurer - Charlotte Cassidy, Class of 1973
- Secretary - Ushona Mclean, Class of 1998
- Alumni Representative on the Foundation Board - Darlene Mack-Brown, Class of 1988

PLACE TO SIT AND REFLECT - Members of the nursing student body, staff and faculty showed their appreciation to Nancy Caputo by commissioning student metal artists to create a bench in her honor on the Utica Campus. From left are: Esther Caldwell, Student Trustee; John Coleman, artist and Student Congress President; Devon Walters, artist and welding student. Seated is Caputo.

Bench honors Caputo

Esther Caldwell, the student representative on the Board of Trustees, showed her appreciation for former Associate Dean for Nursing and Allied Health Nancy Caputo by launching a campaign to have an iron bench commissioned in her honor.

The nursing faculty, staff and students turned to John Coleman, President of Student Congress and a welding major, to design the bench. Coleman, along with fellow Welders Among Communities Club member Devon Walters, designed the iron and copper bench on the computer. They combined new design ideas with previously mastered approaches to create this unique monument.

After about a week of designing the bench, the two welding students spent between 100-120 hours fabricating the bench which included using the machine shop for the backrest. The bench consists of steel and copper which were paid for by members of the nursing department.

Caputo was on hand along with about 100 other nursing students, faculty and staff for the unveiling. The bench, which features Caputo's name, is mounted outside of the Academic Building overlooking the quad on the Utica Campus.

HONORS INSTITUTE - Seven members of MVCC's Phi Theta Kappa honor society took part in the annual Honors Institute in Seneca Fall. Representing MVCC were Rosa Cardona, Vinnie Semeraro, Olayinka Odede, John Coleman, Nick Mancari, Olga Lukashevich, and Olga Surkova.

PTK represents MVCC at Honors Institute

The New York Region of Phi Theta Kappa held its annual Honors Institute in Seneca Falls on Friday through Saturday, November 11-13.

Students from MVCC joined others from around the state for a weekend of fellowship, local sightseeing, and academic study of the International PTK Honors Study Topic, "The Democratization of Information: Power, Peril, and Promise."

Four speakers provided by the Finger Lakes Community College host chapter raised issues related to the role of music in emotional understanding and expression, the facts and myths of buying local produce, the relationship between science and religion, and the history of how Harriet Tubman's story came to be known. Following each speaker, students participated in breakout sessions to further explore and discuss these issues.

MVCC advisors Steve Frisbee and Liz Doherty served as breakout session facilitators for the weekend.

Did you know?

CCED teaches computer courses to over 800 students each year at the Utica Working Solutions Office?

Airframe & Powerplant ceremoney is December 23

The MVCC Airframe and Powerplant Technology program will hold its December 2011 Completion Ceremony Wednesday, December 23, at the Training Center Hangar. The ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m. and is open to anyone wishing to attend.

There will be seven students completing the program this semester. The Training Center Hanger is located at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome.

For more information, contact Walter Constantini, Director of the Airframe & Powerplant Certificate Program, at 338-7826.

MVCC recognizes Caputo with Emerita status

Nancy Caputo, MS, RN, was recognized for many years of outstanding service at MVCC by being presented the title of Associate Dean and Professor Emerita at the October Board of Trustees meeting. Caputo's passion for the nursing program at the College began when she was hired in 1978. Over the next three years, Caputo's drive and dedication enabled her to complete her Masters degree at Syracuse University. Her dedication was not overlooked during this time and she was appointed to be the Nursing Department's Second Year Coordinator during the 1980s. This professional experience laid the groundwork for Caputo to step up as department head in 1991.

Caputo

Nursing and allied health programs have always been signatures of MVCC and Caputo has seen many changes for the better. In 1978, the nursing lab was across the hall from Human Resources but has moved three times since as more space was required.

Caputo was also a strong supporter for the Life Science Department's cadaver program, an experience which has been a phenomenal tool for nursing and respiratory care students in preparing for the rigors of these careers. Under Caputo's stewardship the respiratory care program was expanded and nursing labs were added to the Rome Campus via a partnership with Rome Memorial Hospital.

In her role as department head and then Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, Caputo worked with faculty and staff to maintain high standards of the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). This accounts for the nursing program achieving full accreditation for eight consecutive years.

Going hand-in-hand with this achievement are the partnerships she has helped nurture within the community which continue to be paramount in advancing programs.

Caputo is on the Nursing Advisory Boards of SUNY IT and Utica College.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED - MVCC students Maizie Zamlowski and PawSer Soe were among the volunteers who spent a day ringing the bell for The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign. MVCC students and employees spent a Saturday at four locations helping to raise donations. Zamlowski and Soe are members of MVCC's Phi Theta Kappa honor society and are pictured here at the New Hartford Price Chopper.

MVCC volunteers help Red Kettle Campaign

When it comes to helping those less fortunate within the Mohawk Valley, MVCC students and employees have always been among the leading force to lend a helping hand. This was the case on Saturday, November 19, when dozens of students and employees volunteered to staff three location for The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign.

MVCC's representatives rang the bell for hours to help collect thousands of dollars. This is the fourth year of staffing Red Kettle locations for MVCC with the list of volunteers growing every year. Along with students volunteering, volunteers helped make it a family outing by bringing their children to help ring the bells.

"This is a wonderful way to introduce the next generation to community service," said Patricia H. Fox, Acting Assistant Dean for Life & Health Sciences and Director of Strategic Initiatives. "By giving an hour or two, these volunteers help the Salvation Army make a huge difference in the lives of many."

First Source supports nursing and allied health education

In the latest news from MVCC's Challenge and Opportunity major gifts campaign, First Source Federal Credit Union was honored last week for its $25,000, five-year pledge to the MVCC Foundation, Inc. The nursing lab in the Academic Building on the Utica Campus was dedicated as the First Source Nursing and Allied Health Computer Lab.

The donation will be used to support additional programs and services for MVCC's nursing and allied health students, such as investment in the dedicated computer lab and related technological resources. This will enable MVCC to expand its role as an educator of health professionals in the region.

"This investment by our valued partners at First Source Federal Credit Union will enable us to better meet students' needs—and to better prepare students to meet the needs of employers in our region," says MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner. "First Source has been a supporter of the college for a long time, and we appreciate that First Source's leaders recognize the importance of investing in education for this critical sector of our economy."

LAB DEDICATION - President Randall J. VanWagoner shakes hands with Mike Parsons, President of First Source Federal Credit Union. Looking on are Frank DuRoss and Pam Fess.

Students commissioned to create Boilermaker logo

It has become common practice for local organizations to tap the talent pool at MVCC when new design concepts are being sought. This is true once again as the Board of Trustees for the Utica Boilermaker Road Race selected a logo design created by an MVCC graphic design student to be used for the 2012 event.

This is a true testament to the quality work the College's art and design instructors put into the program. "The entire group of students did an incredible job," said Tim Raymer, president and owner of Streamline Concepts Advertising Firm, during a presentation to the 28 students who submitted logo designs for consideration.

The Boilermaker Board of Trustees will unveil the winning design on Tuesday, December 13, at the Tour Center, at 5 p.m. To keep the winning design a secret until then, Tim Reed from the Boilermaker will contact the top five students next Monday and invite them to the unveiling where the winning design will be revealed. For the four students whose designs weren't selected, it is under discussion to use them for the next four years as the voting on the designs were so close, according to Raymer.

The MVCC students who took part in this project were from Assistant Professor Douglas Hyldelund's Design Theory 3 class. There were 28 students from two sections of the course.

"For the students, this is a real world project where the experience is priceless," said Hyldelund, who worked on this project with Scott Selden and Jim Vitale. "This is the type of material they can use in their portfolios."

According to Raymer, 14 of the submissions were possible winners with the agency narrowing it down to five. The 20-member Board unanimously chose the winning designer and suggested minor modifications for the logo.

2012 BOILERMAKER LOGO - Tim Raymer, president and owner of Streamline Concepts Advertising Firm, talks to MVCC students about their designs for the 2012 Utica Boilermaker Road Race. The winning design will be unvealed December 13. Assistant Professor Doug Hyldelund's class was tasked with this challenge.

The specifications each design had to meet included having 35th Anniversary, the running man logo and Boilermaker word logo. The design will be displayed on everything related to this year's Boilermaker Road Race, including posters, t-shirts, pins, posters, letterhead, patches, jackets, beach towels, bags, golf shirts, and more.

The December 13 event is open to the public and members of the MVCC community have been invited by Boilermaker officials to attend.

Dr. Treis' poetry reading

The College's Library hosted Dr. Mildred Treis' poetry reading on Wednesday, November 16.

Dr. Treis entertained the audience, comprised of students, faculty and staff members, with selections from her recently published book "Reflections of a Woman's Soul: a Book of Poems." Dr. Treis provided an introduction to her selected readings, putting the poems into context for the audience.

Dr. Treis also shared with the audience personal insights about her birth in Zanzibar to her experiences living in Goa, India.

FALL OPEN HOUSE - (Above) Bob Decker talks with a prospective student and his father about the engineering programs offered at MVCC during the Fall Open House. This year's event was held in the Jorgensen Center. (Below) Students interested in Criminal Justice were given a forensic evidence demonstration.