



Emeriti welcomed back to MVCC

The College hosted the Third Annual MVCC Emeritus Breakfast on Monday in the Information Technology Building with 26 honorees in attendance.

They were treated to a splendid breakfast menu with members of the Board of Trustees, college officials and faculty coming out to welcome them back to the campus. The breakfast is part of MVCC's Celebration of Success: Past, Present and Future.

Of the emeriti in attendance, six of the eight newly honored members were able to attend the breakfast. The new class of emeriti include Nancy Caputo, Antoinette Carbone, Robert Clark, Priscilla Dack, Denise DiGiorgio, Robert B. Jubenville, Robert Lacell, Ellis Searles, Herb Thorpe and Mario Restive.

President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., gave the emeriti an update on what is occurring at MVCC including how the college is handling cuts in state funding (cuts equal 27 percent to level per FTE of 2000-01), flat county support but a continued increase in enrollment.

He highlighted how Phi Theta Kappa members are seeking Five-Star status with their Student Completion Pledge campaign and how the College now has 65 Presidential Scholars – those who are among the 10 percent of each high schools' class in Oneida County.

The emeriti were also given details on how the College secured its fourth major grant in as many years with the GEAR UP funds. This is a \$3.1 million grant which complements work being done at the College through the



MVCC's Distinguished Emeriti in Attendance

Jo Alexander
John Bolton
Nancy Caputo
Antoinette (Toni) Carbone
Albert Christensen
Kitty Dack
Denise M. DiGiorgio
Francis Dunning
Leon Heselton
John Hollinger
Bob Jastrab
Dr. Robert Jubenville
Paul Kempkes
Raymond Kosiewicz
Robert Lacell
Dennis Lee
Tom Maneen
Richard Meili
William Newman
Pamela J. Nigro
James O'Looney
Mike Sewall
Ann Smallen
Ivan Smith
Eugenia Taft
Dr. Lewis White

four-year \$1.1M EOP Grant, the four-year \$3.6M Cybersecurity Training grant and as well as the Upward Bound and STEP funding.

Quite a bit of chatter was generated on the updates about the Rome Campus, which has seen a 50 percent enrollment increase over the last seven years. Rome now offers 19 complete academic programs and houses six student club s while accounting for 14 percent of the College's FTEs. The launch of the shuttle service between the two campuses was the feather in the cap for the Rome Campus update.

Following breakfast and the presentation, the emeriti spent nearly an hour catching up with each other and sharing stories of their time at MVCC. Also, Michael Sewall was introduced as the Chair for MVCC's Challenge & Opportunity's Retirees Division.

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

George Searles, Ph.D., has dedicated his life to the students at MVCC since before most of them were even born. He was recognized last week for that dedication of 35 years of service during a ceremony in his office. Dr. Searles, who holds the rank of Professor, teaches English 1: Composition, Oral & Written Communication and Latin in the Center for Arts and Humanities. He began his career on September 1, 1976. ▶



Satya Tandon was among the group of teachers who joined the MVCC family in 1981 and helped shape the college. He was honored last week for 30 years of dedication to students and fellow co-workers. Tandon, who holds the rank of Associate Professor, teaches English 1: Composition, Effective Speech and World Literature 1 in the Center for Arts and Humanities. He began his career on September 1, 1981. ◀



Kathleen Partridge has been helping students connect the dots for decades with many of them going on to be successful artists. Partridge is among the class of teachers who have dedicated 30 years to MVCC and was recognized last week for his service and dedication. Beginning her career at MVCC on September 1, 1981, she teaches Figure Illustration, General Drawing and Foundation Drawing. She is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Arts and Humanities. ▲

HR, Payroll offer two new services

The College's Human Resource and Payroll Office are now offering two new services to all employees; full-time, part-time, student assistants and work-study students.

MVCC employees can change their Federal and State tax electronically and changes will take effect the next payroll date. This online service can be accessed through the employee's SIRS account. Please contact Human Resources for assistance on accessing your SIRS account.

In the past, employees had to fill out hard copy forms to change their tax exemptions and allowances. Now, they login into SIRS, click on Employee, Tax Forms, Exemptions and Allowances and then click "Update" to make the changes to either their Federal or State.

The College is also now offering the ability to set up multiple direct deposits. In the past, employees could set up a direct deposit into one bank to either a checking or savings account. Employees can now set up direct deposits to up to four different bank accounts and to one or more financial institutions.

To add, delete, or change your direct deposits, College employees are required to complete a Direct Deposit Authorization Form, which can be obtained on the MVCC Intranet, HR Forms or in Human Resources or Payroll.

Once completed, forms must be turned into Payroll for processing. Please remember to attach a bank letter or voided

check to this form to verify your account information. The direct deposit changes will take up to two pay periods to take effect.

The College believes that these additions and enhancements will improve your Human Resource and Payroll service.

Veterans Day ceremony honors vets of all nations

On Friday, November 11, the College will mark Veterans Day with an event to honor all veterans.

At 11 a.m. on the Quad in front of the Academic Building, an Oneida County representative will thank veterans for their service, and the honor guard from Proctor High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps will conduct a brief ceremony in which the U.S. flag will be raised while "Taps" will be played. Veterans of all nationalities are invited to attend, along with all students, faculty, staff, and neighbors of MVCC.

Following the event, a reception will be held in the Lobby of Payne Hall for students, faculty, staff and family members who are veterans or are deployed. The event is sponsored by MVCC to bring together all veterans within the Oneida County community who have served their country.

MVCC's GEAR UP grant will help Utica students

The College secured its fourth major grant in as many years when it was announced MVCC was the recipient of a \$3,118,740 Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) grant which is provided through the U.S. Department of Education.

The GEAR UP grant will provide \$519,790 in funding for six years in order to increase the number of Utica students ready to succeed in college.

"MVCC is very pleased and appreciative of this funding. Through this GEAR UP grant, more of Utica's low-income students will get the skills and support they need to make their dreams of a college education a reality," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. "As a time when we know preparation is vital to successful completion at the college level, we believe this innovative program will help prepare students early to succeed in high school and in college."

The grant, which was secured with the help of U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., through the office of Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr., takes a unique cohort approach, in which students in seventh grade in Utica School District - roughly 650 students - will receive extra academic support from grade seven through high school graduation.

According to Utica School District Superintendent of School Bruce Karam, This grant "will establish new collaborations between our junior highs and MVCC, as well as strengthen the established connections between the college and Proctor High School. As a district, we are working to put an added focus on math. This project's efforts to boost math achievement dovetail perfectly with our efforts."

The GEAR UP program is designed to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides grants to partnerships which provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools and through the first year of college. The services include: Providing information regarding financial



GEAR UP GRANT - Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr., discusses the benefits of the GEAR UP grant while MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., and Utica School District Superintendent of School Bruce Karam look on during the announcement of the funding.

aid for post-secondary education to participating students in the cohort, encouraging student enrollment in rigorous and challenging curricula and coursework, and improving the number of participating students who obtain a secondary school diploma and complete applications for and enroll in a program of postsecondary education.

The College will be working with Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Utica Safe Schools, the Refugee Center, among other county agencies.

Picente noted that the project is an outgrowth of Oneida County's efforts to help young people through innovative youth programs. "Oneida County recognizes the need to help young people develop, which is why our Summer Youth Employment Program and out Youth Bureau programs are key partners in the community."

Dr. Van Wagoner noted that MVCC, which is the host site for Oneida County's Summer Youth Employment Program, currently operates the Upward Bound and STEP programs, which help prepare Proctor students for college. "Our goal is to ensure every student graduates from high school prepared to go on to postsecondary education. Across the country, GEAR UP has proven to be a successful program in helping more students accomplish this goal, and I am proud we will be able to operate this program in the coming years, with the support of our partners."

GEAR UP is currently establishing its staffing structure, and will be enrolling students in Utica schools later this year.

Dr. Treis to read from her book of poetry in Utica

The College's Utica Library is hosting a poetry reading by Dr. Mildred Treis on Wednesday, November 16, at noon.

Please join us as Dr. Treis reads poems from her recently published book *Reflections of a Woman's Soul: a Book of Poems*. Copies of the book are on order for both the Utica and Rome campus library collections.

Dr. Treis's book may also be purchased from Barnes and Noble www.barnesandnoble.com and Amazon.com at www.amazon.com.

Submit information for *Communitas*
to rhaubert@mvcc.edu

Honoring John Plumley



GIVING ROME A NEW LOOK – The Rome Campus has a new look with the addition of new signage on the John D. Plumley Complex. The new signage was placed to honor of the dedication of former Oneida County Executive Plumley, whose five children also attended MVCC. The signage gives the Plumley Complex more visibility from Floyd Ave.



MANDIA FAMILY LEARNING CENTER - MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., joins Stephen Mandia in unveiling the sign for the Mandia Family Learning Center this week during a dedication ceremony. Mandia is a 1985 graduate of MVCC and big supporter of tutoring services for students.

Learning Center dedicated in honor of Stephen Mandia

For years it was only known as the College Learning Center. Now with the help of an alum, the tutoring center has officially been dedicated in honor of Stephen Mandia who has made a sizeable donation which will help promote its services.

The Mandia Family Learning Center will continue to offer professional and peer tutoring in mathematics, science, English, computer operations and programming, humanities and social sciences such as psychology, sociology, history and anthropology. As a 1985 graduate of MVCC, Mandia understands and appreciates the vital role tutoring services play in the success of the college's students.

"Sometimes community colleges run under the radar. A lot of times, people spend their money giving to the last college they went to or more prestigious in name institutions," Mandia said. "I think community colleges do a great job here in the local communities."

Mandia's donation of \$250,000 will fund the Presidential Scholarship which is available to the top 10 percent of each graduating class from each school district within Oneida County. This scholarship provides full tuition to the students, who in turn provide peer tutoring within the Mandia Family Learning Center.

"This is an important step for the College," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. "Per square foot, more learning is accomplished in the learning center than anywhere else on campus. The services offered here have enabled our students to go on to be successful in their lives after MVCC."

Mandia is CEO of Mandia International Trading Corporation located in Utica. He was joined by family members and College officials outside of Room 151 in the Academic Building for the dedication ceremony. The learning center houses the writing and mathematics labs on the Utica Campus, which Mandia attributes as key elements to his success as a student at MVCC.

Mandia's donation is part of MVCC's "Challenge and Opportunity" campaign. The campaign's \$7 million goal targets investments in four priority areas: Creating Student Opportunity, Breaking Barriers, Revitalizing the Local Economy, and Educational Excellence Fund.

Athlete of the Week

The Hawks men's basketball team is off to another strong start behind the performance of Zach Coleman. After a strong performance in the first three games to open the 2011-2012 season by Coleman, he was honored by being selected as the MVCC Athlete of the Week for the week ending November 6.



Coleman

Coleman averaged 15 points and six rebounds which led the Hawks in the Anthony Torchia Classic. The freshman is a Liberal Arts major and a graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School.



Rome hosts international students

The Rome Rotary Club continued a tradition of more than 30 years of hosting International Students Day on Saturday, October 29. The area colleges' past participation in this event has contributed to its success and continued to do so once again this year.

International Students Day provides the opportunity for international students studying at MVCC, SUNY IT, Hamilton College and Utica College to visit Rome, spend time with Rotarians and the people of Rome while learning about the past, present and future of this Central New York Community. There were 46 students taking part of which 10 were from MVCC.

This year's tour included a visit Rome Memorial Hospital, Griffiss Business Technology Park, a guided tour of Lake Delta State Park and the surrounding area with a stop at Fort Stanwix National Park. Students had the opportunity to tour, take photos and meet the men and women who are responsible for the success of these local businesses and attractions.