Summer Institute chock-full of activities

With the Spring semester quickly winding down and faculty preparing final grades, this means that Summer Institute 2012 is just around the corner. The link to the registration form is *http://www2.mvcc.edu/training/si/*

This year's schedule has some bonus activities planned for both personal and professional growth to suit everyone's tastes and schedules. All programs are optional and open to all.

New this year are two related workshops on Monday which were scheduled in order to avoid conflicts with the workshops on Tuesday and Wednesday. These bonus workshops will focus on the power of Strengths Quest and how it can be used in the professional setting.

"The Summer Institute is chock-full of 35 concurrent workshops offered during six separate time slots. The events are geared toward professional activities and personal growth," said David R. Katz III, Coordinator of Faculty & Staff Enrichment, Professor of Political Science & History, and Chair of MVCC College Senate.

Tuesday's activities begin at 8:30 a.m. with a half hour seminar hosted by the U.S. Postal Service on cost cutting measures each department can take. A Postal representative will discuss how items are mailed has big implications for our sustainability initiatives as well as the College's budget.

Of great interest to all in the College community will be the speaker for the Plenary Session. Thomas Bailey, Ph.D., Professor of Economics and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, will discuss research and gaps on how community colleges can improve postsecondary success rates. Dr. Bailey is head of the Community College Research Center (CCRC), which provides policymakers, academics and colleges with the impartial information they need to establish programs and policies that can better serve students and create successful institutions.

The schedule of Summer Institute 2012 workshops are:

Monday 9:00am – 11:30am

An Introduction to Strengths - Liz Doherty, Jim Maio & Lew Kahler

Monday 1:00pm – 3:30pm

Utilizing Strengths with Students - Liz Doherty, Jim Maio & Lew Kahler

Tuesday 8:30am – 9:00am

♦ US Postal Service Cost Savings Seminar, "Saving Today to Ensure Tomorrow" - Sam Fanizzi, Shipping Specialist USPS

Tuesday 8:45am – 9:30am

♦ Morning Refreshments / Coffee, muffins and such, plus lots of tunes!

Tuesday 9:00am – 3:00pm

♦ MVCCPA Benefits Fund

♦ The Professional Association Benefits Fund will be sponsoring two events:

1) Attorney John Calimano will be on campus for another "Will Day."

2) NYSUT benefits expert Laura Calhoun will be talking about other NYSUT benefits available and taking questions about the current benefits offered by the PA.

Tuesday 9:30am – 10:45am

♦ Whose Bones Are These? - Diana Ayers-Darling & Don Kelly

♦ Jewelry Emergency 101 - Christi Harrington, Maimun Kahn & Rosemary Spetka

♦ The Waterless Rose - Mike Sorrentino

♦ An Investigation into the Human Body - Eileen Bush, William Perrotti, Don Kelly, and Aaron Fried

♦ Insurance 101 - Janice Owens, Investment Manager from Adirondack Financial Services

♦ The Making of a Mixed Assemblage Artwork - Doug Hyldelund

Tuesday 11:00am – 1:00pm

♦ Summer Institute Employees' Showcase Opening - Displays of art work & crafts from MVCC employees.

Tuesday 11:00am – 1:00pm

♦ MVCC Benefits Fair - an opportunity to meet with providers to obtain updated information and ask individual questions about the services.

Tuesday 11:00am – 12:15pm

♦ Birds of a feather squawk talk for Blackboard common issues and best practices. – Jim Lynch

♦ Break Out of Your Shell - Norma Chrisman, Ben Duerr

♦ Learning can be fun, come and see how! - Annie Dousharm & Janet Fortnam

♦ Web Content Management - Jen Rotundo & Chrono Ho

♦ Advisement for Club Advisors - Kim Overrocker, Interim Director of Student Engagement & Outreach and Sandy Cummings, Student Activities Coordinator

♦ Preparing your Promotion Packet - Non-Teaching Professionals - Sharon Zohne & Paul Halko

Tuesday 12:15pm – 1:00pm

♦ Casual Lunch / Pizza, Wings, Veggies & Dip, Cookies, Beverages and music

Tuesday 1:00pm – 2:15pm

♦ Plenary Session on Community College Improvement Efforts: What the Research Tells Us and What We Still Need to Learn / Dr. Thomas Bailey Professor of Economics and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Tuesday 2:30pm – 3:45pm

♦ Plenary Institute Café - Conversation not presentation.

♦ Using Visualization & Mental Imagery to Achieve Goals - Kathy Bernstein

♦ Yoga Class - Jerri George

♦ Strength & Conditioning for Health - Dave Warren

♦ Will the REAL GAMES Please Stand Up! - Jeff Birt, Dale Horton & John Jaramillo

♦ What is a grievance…understanding Article 15 - Dawson McDermott, Norma Chrisman, David Nackley, Sandy Cummings and Jim Vitale

Wednesday 8:45am – 9:30am

♦ Morning Refreshments / Coffee, muffins and such, plus lots of tunes!

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Stepping out against Autism

STOPPING THE CYCLE - Team MVCC participated in the Kelberman Center's – Walk for Autism on Saturday, April 21. MVCC faculty, staff and students collected pledges, and held fundraisers the week prior to the walk, and were able to raise over $650.

Summer Institute 2012

Wednesday 9:30am – 10:45am

- Blue beryls, green garnets, and pink tourmalines: the exotic and wonderful world of colored gemstones. - Joe Woodrow
- Digital Animation and Game Art - Scot Connor & Alex Piejko
- Contemporary Drugs of Abuse - Michele Caliva RN CSPI Director of the Upstate NY Poison Center at Upstate Medical University
- Tai Chi for a Healthy Life & Positive Influence on Teaching / Al Christensen, Instructor of Tai Chi Chuan
- Play Your Stress Away - Robin Saxe
- "Happy Thoughts": Celebrating Cary Grant through Primary Sources - Colleen R. Kehoe-Robinson

Wednesday 11:00am – 12:15pm

- Learning Styles and Teaching Styles: What's the Connection - Erin Severs & Alex Haines-Stephan
- Fall Learning Communities Collaboration Session - Jen Boulanger & Julie Dewan
- Embracing & Understanding Diversity - Patrick L. Johnson
- Seeing the World Without Leaving Utica - LaToya Richardson, Maimun Khan, Pattina Keniston and her students!
- Nano-Technology "No Idea is too small for us!" / Robert Decker, Shahida Dar, Celia Domser, Sam Russo, Maggie Reilly, Don Willner, Melissa Barlett, Franca Armstrong and Marianne Buttenschon
- Learn to soar with Blackboard - Team DL Open lab to finalize your Blackboard course.
- Movin on Up! The Promotion Process for Faculty - Elin Cormican

Wednesday 12:15pm – 1:45pm

- Summer Institute 2010 Recognition Luncheon

Wednesday 2:00pm – 3:15pm

- Employee Climate Survey Results - Mark Radlowski & Norayne Rosero
- Blackboard 9 takes flight - Team DL
- MOVIE with FREE POPCORN: Batteries Not Included

TOP NURSES - Seen here at the conference in Albany held on April 20, are Barbara Zittel, RN, Ph.D, former Executive Secretary to the NY State Board for Nursing; Pamela Fess, RN, MS, CCRN, Vice President, Council of Associate Degree Nursing NYS; and Carol Bosco, RN, Ph.D, President, Council of Associate Degree Nursing NYS.

Fess key to success of nursing conference

Pamela Fess, the Vice President for the Associate Degree Nursing Council, and MVCC's Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, had the honor of chairing a teaching conference for nurse executives, leaders, managers, and faculty on April 20, in Albany.

The conference, entitled Advancing Nursing Education; Showcasing New York's Initiatives, included presentations on CUNY's initiatives, contributions of private colleges, the New York initiative, partnerships between colleges and healthcare facilities for on-site programs as well as national perspectives on progression of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) 80/20 recommendation by American Association of retired People (AARP).

"It was an honor and a privilege to network with nurse leaders from across the state. I was surrounded with a strong sense of commitment to achieving higher levels of education and training for our future students."

The event was co-sponsored by the Council for the Associate Degree in New York State, Inc, NYS Council of Deans and Directors of Baccalaureate and Higher Education in Nursing, and the NYS Action Coalition – Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action.

To read more on the Future of Nursing:
http://thefutureofnursing.org/recommendations

Correction

Bembry

Marcel Bembry's title was incorrect in the caption under his longevity photograph. Marcel is the Senior Clerk in the Facilities Office. Mark Murphy is the College's Supervisor of Residence Hall Facilities.

Marcel was recognized for 20 years of service at the College.

Utica Zoomobile drives into Kiddie Campus

The Kiddie Campus welcomed some four-legged visitors on Tuesday when the Utica Zoomobile pulled onto campus. The Utica Zoo staff brought four residences, giving the children and morning of excitement.

Zoo staff brought Chooch the Egyptian Spiny Tailed Lizard, Lucky the Snapping Turtle, Veronica the Hedgehog and the fan favorite Gus the Chinchilla. The children were given an introductory story about each animal and then had an opportunity to pet each creature .

This visit is part of the Kiddie Campus' celebration of "Week of the Young Child." Other events planned for this week include wrapping up the Humane Society donation drive, and week ending picnic.

Exercise challenges students in forensic anthropology

There was a crime scene in the quad last week with investigators scouring for remains of three "victims." But not to worry as these investigators were students from Diana Ayers-Darling, Ph.D., Introduction to Forensic Anthropology class.

"This exercise gives the students an opportunity to experience what forensic anthropology is about," said Dr. Ayers-Darling. "Once you learn what a human bone looks like, you are able to distinguish it from an animal's bone. But it is the fragmented bones that are the most challenging."

The 16 students taking part in the exercise had three crime scenes where there were only bones and personal items remaining. The assignment was a culminating task after a semester of learning to identify the bones of the human skeleton and learning to determine ancestry, sex, age, and stature of human skeletal remains. These students were participating in a mock recovery exercise, collecting surface remains to be taken into back the lab and analyzed.

"They collected the evidence from the surface and now they will figure out who they have and their story," said Dr. Ayers-Darling. "Students always enjoy this exercise and will be doing facial reconstruction next week which they really have fun with. What they find is that it is not as clear cut as you would think. When identifying a male from a female, there are certain skeletal features that can be used, however they are not as discrete as one would like because there is a range of variation in humans."

For an introductory course, the class is all hands-on and information intensive. An example is when students need to learn the 22 paired bones of the skull during the first week of class.

Dr. Ayers-Darling points out that there is a misleading notion about forensic anthropology. "Most forensic anthropologists are academics and very few are fulltime. They have academic jobs where they consult on the side," said Dr. Ayers-Darling, who describes herself as a "Paleontologist in the realm of Biological Anthropology."

THE EVIDENCE - A student takes photographs of a mock crime scene as part of an exercise in Dr. Diana Ayers-Darling's Introduction to Forensic Anthropology class.

OPEN HOUSE

Spring Open House includes workshops, faculty sessions

MVCC hosted its largest Open House in recent years last Friday in the Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic and Events Center, bringing about 400 visitors to the Utica Campus to discover all that the college has to offer in terms of academic programs and services.

Representatives from 17 Student Affairs offices joined with the five Academic Centers to showcase the variety and reach of MVCC's offerings. Deans and faculty met with prospective students and families at tables in the Field House, talking about the various programs and offering demonstrations.

The new and expanded format included several new features. Staff members led workshops designed to help new students transition from high school to college, navigate the financial aid process, and learn about living in MVCC's on-campus housing. There also was an informational session on becoming a student athlete at MVCC and two faculty presentations to give students an idea of what to expect from a college class. Prospective students and families also had the opportunity to tour the Utica campus and residence halls, and learn more about MVCC's diverse academic offerings and services.

MVCC student ambassadors were on hand to give tours of campus facilities, classrooms, residence halls, and labs, as well as answer questions about the MVCC student experience.

Career Fairs focused on employers linked to MVCC's degrees

Each year the Spring Career Fair has continued to grow and this year was no exception with more than 48 employers on site looking to fill the workforce.

"The event was a success with feedback from both employers and students was very positive," said Jennifer Squire, Career Counselor in the Career and Transfer Services Office.

Some of the employers on hand included Cathedral Corporation, ConMed Corporation, Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare, GLOBALFOUNDRIES, Goodrich Engine Components, Indium Corporation of America, MidairUSA Inc., Premier Aviation Overhaul Center, Turning Stone Resort & Casino, and Utica National Insurance Group.

Many of the students in attendance were able to connect with the employers and arrange for interviews later this Spring. One of the keys to this event being successful according to Squire is that employers in the fields of MVCC degrees were targeted.

"Students were able to find employers in their fields which they were very happy about," said Squire.

Due to the increased number of employers, future career fairs may be held in the Jorgensen Center. There is also discussion among all the area colleges to host a combined larger event which MVCC has the facilities to host.

"We would love to see this type of event grow to include employers from across the state," said Squire.

MAKING A CAREER CONNECTION - A student and job seeker talks with one of the employers attending the Spring Career Fair which was held in the lobbies and conference rooms in the Information Technology Building. There were more than 48 employers on hand with many of the students walking away from the event with interviews lined up.