Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of August 27, 2012

Sept. 6 ceremony to rename theater in honor of MVCC President Emeritus

On Thursday, Sept. 6, starting at 4:30 p.m., MVCC will ceremonially celebrate the achievements of its longest-serving President, Dr. Michael I. Schafer, by dedicating the Utica Campus Theater as the newly named "Dr. Michael I. Schafer Theater."

President Emeritus Schafer will be on hand and will speak, along with President Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner, Board of Trustees Chair Elaine Falvo, and County Executive Anthony Picente Jr., among others. In renaming the Theater after Dr. Schafer, the MVCC Board of Trustees is recognizing how his vision led to the creation of one of the community's signature performance and gathering spaces; as well as the significant impacts Dr. Schafer had on tens of thousands of MVCC students, the College, and the community during his tenure.

The afternoon reception will be followed immediately by the formal dedication ceremony starting at 5:30 p.m. Events will take place in the Information Technology Building's lobby and the theater itself on the Utica Campus. The reception and dedication are free and open to the College community, the public, and the media. Refreshments will be available.

Dr. Schafer served as MVCC's president from 1983-2007, when he retired and was granted Emeritus status by the Board. His length of service remains one of the longest in the history of SUNY community colleges, and his tenure at the college was marked by significant transformations in MVCC's campuses, academic offerings, and community partnerships.

In 2001, the College completed a $21 million renovation of the Utica Campus, including the construction of the Information Technology Building in which the Schafer Theater is housed — and the installation of a Steinway 150th Anniversary grand piano that has become one of the Theater's signature sounds. Other major improvements during Dr. Schafer's presidency included the opening of the Plumley Complex on the Rome Campus, construction of the Science and Technology Building, construction of a new 155-bed residence hall on the Utica Campus, and reviews of intercollegiate athletic facilities and Rome Campus facilities that have continued to influence the College's Master Plan and physical plant.

Dr. Michael I. Schafer

Overall MVCC's building square footage grew from 370,000 to 610,000.

Under Dr. Schafer, nearly 20 new academic programs were introduced and the College made significant forays into connecting with other local testing, training, and education partners including the Mohawk Valley Police Academy. Significant partnerships were undertaken with the Utica City School District and the Rome City School District, and MVCC participated in the formation of the Mohawk Valley College Consortium. Assets of the MVCC Foundation grew from approximately $87,000 to more than $2 million.

His record of community and higher-education service included membership on the boards of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield of Central New York, the Utica Symphony, United Way, Mohawk Valley EDGE, School and Business Alliance, Rotary, Chambers of Commerce, and the Business Council of New York. St. Elizabeth Hospital named him "Humanitarian of the Year" in 1996.He co-chaired the legislative relations committee of the Association of Presidents of Public Community Colleges in New York State, and presided over the Post-Secondary International Network.

Dr. Schafer came to MVCC from St. Louis Community College, where he served as dean of instruction from 1980 to 1983. He also served as dean for instruction at Muskegon Community College in Michigan from 1971 to 1977, and again from 1978 to 1980. During 1977-1978, he was on leave from Muskegon Community College to serve as a U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare Fellow in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Schafer also held teaching and administrative positions with the Florida Community Junior College/ Inter-Institutional Research Council, the University of Florida, Santa Fe Junior College, and Osceola High School. He holds three degrees from the University of Florida, a B.S., an M.Ed., and an Ed.D. in administration of higher education.

Submit information for Communitas to rhaubert@mvcc.edu

Dorms help complete the experience

Part of getting the full college experience is living on campus. At MVCC, the Residence Halls provide the enrichment of living on campus.

An August Institute tour revealed that MVCC has five Residence Halls (New, Daugherty, Huntington, Penfield and Butterfield Hall) which house 525 students. Three Resident Directors oversee activities in these co-ed facilities and keep the system running smoothly.

"It is definitely a different experience living on campus and it completes the college experience," said Dennis Gibbons, Associate Dean for Student & Residence Life Services. "In addition to students who live a distance from campus, we have students who are from Utica, Rome and the other communities in Oneida County who want that experience."

Part of the experience is in meeting new people and interacting with them during the off hours as well as hanging in the rooms and the common areas. One of the heaviest used areas is the Recreation Room in New Hall which features an air hockey table, pool tables, foos ball table, and a basketball shooting game. The Residence Halls also have a printer room for students to finalize their assignments and laundry areas.

While enjoying the social aspects of Residence Halls life, the number one priority for the Dorm Corporation – the governing entity which runs the facilities - is safety. For this reason, there are uniformed security officers manning the entrances to the Residence Halls from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. These security officers track visitors to the halls and have already been effective in preventing non-Residence Hall students from "squatting" with friends.

BEHIND THE SCENES VIEW - Dennis Gibbons, Associate Dean for Student and Residence Life Services, gives a first-hand tour of the Residence Halls during the August Institute.

There are also 45 security cameras and bolt locks on all the doors with students gaining access through the use of their proximity card.

The quiet hours for the halls are from 10 p.m. – 10 a.m. on school days and in Daugherty Hall from 9 p.m. – 10 a.m. With the Dorm Corporation initiating a minimum grade point average requirement to remain in the dorms (last year's average was 2.22), the enforcement of the quiet hours has become part of an academic improvment

For the Resident Directors, the ratio is 1-180 students while for the Residence Hall Assistants the ratio is 1-30. There is an RA on each floor to oversee the other students and in return receives free room. All Resident Directors have a bachelor's degree or higher and are full-time employees of the Dorm Corporation.

To keep the Residence Halls in nice conditions, there is one housekeeper per building and they are responsible for the public areas while the students are responsible for keeping their individual rooms clean.

The cost to live in the Residence Halls is approximately $4,500 per semester which includes a meal plan. The rooms are singles, doubles and triples with rates priced accordingly. This equates out to $41 a day including cable TV, Internet access, activities and parking.

New to the Residence Halls is a sprinkler system that reaches into all rooms.

The Residence Halls don't sit idle over the summer months as New Hall hosts the elite runners for the Boilermaker Road Race as well as several other special events. There are also living quarters for visiting professors.

Mihevc published in international magazine

The threat to computer network systems around regionally and around the world is an everyday reality for IT professionals. The College has been knee deep in the battle with Jake Mihevc leading the charge as the Director of the CyberJobs cybersecurity training program.

Mihevc

Mihevc recently shared some of his expertise and insight in a paper which was published in Chief Security Officer (CSO) Online. CSO provides news, analysis and research on a broad range of security and risk management topics. It is well read by members of the cybersecurity industry.

A native of Little Falls, Mihevc's paper was entitled "The Formation of Cyber Militias in the United States: Feasibility, Structure, and Purpose."

Mihevc holds a bachelor's degree from SUNY Geneseo, and is pursuing a master's degree in Cybersecurity at Utica College. He developed his background in Information Technology in San Francisco during the dot com boom.

He served as Western Region Technology Coordinator for Hotjobs.com, and Platform Engineer for Avinon Inc. and is a principal in the Little Falls based IT consulting company The Computer Clinic. Mihevc also serves as an instructor in MVCC's new AS degree in Computer Science: Cybersecurity.

The CyberJobs program at MVCC helps trainees get certifications and enhanced skills in information technology and cybersecurity, helping them compete for jobs in these growing fields.

Job Listings at MVCC

Job Title: Student and Residence Life Specialist
Salary: $32,092
Qualifications: Associate's degree and a demonstrated ability to work effectively with students required. Ability to flex work schedule and to work evenings and weekends required. Proficiency with Microsoft Office, including but not limited to Excel and Access required. Bachelor's degree, higher education and events planning experience preferred.
Duties: Assists the Director of Engagement and Outreach and Associate Dean of Student & Residence Life with student activities, clubs and organizations, and events, particularly those occurring in the evenings/weekends, and with all on-campus and off-campus housing functions.
Special Instructions to Applicants: Must be a current MVCC employee.
Deadline: August 31, 2012

Annual golf outing was a swinging hit

The 26th Annual Foundation Golf Tournament was a swinging hit at Valley View Golf and Country Club.

This year's event attracted 120 golfers for the Monday, June 18, outing with dozens of donated door prizes and raffles. Along with participants, there were local and regional sponsors who helped raise $22,861 for the MVCC Presidential Scholarship Fund.

This is the second year the tournament helped raise funding for the MVCC Presidential Scholarship Fund which enables the top ten percent of each high school graduating class to attend MVCC tuition free.

Participants played an 18-hole round of captain-and-crew format and received ball markers, golf balls and golf shirt. The 27th annual tournament will be held Monday, June 17, at Valley View Golf and Country Club.

Anyone interested in taking part in next year's event, contact Deanna Ferro at 731-5797.

Counting calories pays off once again

The second round of the Biggest Losers' Contest saw an amazing number of pounds shed over the summer. While the first round was held during the Spring semester and attracted a very impressive number of students and College employees, the Summer session was just a thrilling.

Once again Hart and Soul - Steve Frisbee and Dan Harter – were at the head of the pack and they won the overall competition by losing 17.98 percent of their body weight. In a close second was Team F – Jim Maio and Lizabeth Doherty – with a loss of 17.09 percent. Rounding out the top three (yes that was meant to be a pun) was Maximum Density - Tania Bader and Rich Haubert – with a 14.57 percent drop in their combined weight.

There were 11 teams participating with the results being: 4. Two for the Show - 13.23 percent; 5. Chunky Monkies - 12.17 percent; 6. Hot Tubs - 8.79 percent; 7. A couple of Cuties losing their Booties! - 6.61 percent; 8. Load Rangers - 6.20 percent; 9. Team K - 5.10 percent; 10. Waist Watchers - 3.46 percent; 11. Tuns of Fun - 2.31 percent.

The 11 teams combined for a total of 225.1 pounds.

In the individual category, the winner was Lizabeth Doherty with a loss of 11.68 percent of body weight while close behind was Tania Bader with 11.13 percent. Three other participants lost double digits with Norma Chrisman in third with 10.56 percent, followed by Susan Johnston with 10.51 percent and Steve Frisbee 10.15 percent.

Completing the top ten were 6. Rosemary Manley - 9.20 percent; 7. Dan Harter - 7.83 percent; 8. Janet Visalli - 6.56 percent; 9. Christy Stephenson - 5.92 percent; 10. Jim Maio - 5.41 percent.

The popularity of the Biggest Loser Contest is growing again for a third round planned later this Fall.

Join the Fourth Friday Fall Institute

As the Fall semester begins to settle into a routine, the College will host a Fourth Friday Fall Institute which is meant to offer helpful advice on how to address and deal with situations which arise in front-line offices and classrooms. This day's activities will be held on Friday, Sept. 14, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and running until 1 p.m.

Every day, on campuses across America, faculty, student services staff, and other front-line providers are confronted with what can only be described as the difficult and the unexpected. Often times, if not addressed quickly and effectively, these situations can get out of control.

The Fourth Friday training will provide both the information and skills to help identify, manage, and de-escalate a variety of situations, enhancing individuals' personal safety habits and ability to foster greater student success.

The day's activities will begin with morning refreshments in ACC 116 and followed by workshop presentations entitled "What's in Your Toolbox."

The presentations will be provided by F.J. Lawrence - Chief of University Police and Director of Emergency Management at SUNY Delhi; Lyn Ontl – a nationally certified counselor and co-Director of SUNY Delhi's Wellness Center; and Mary Radliff – a certified Nurse Practitioner and co-Director of SUNY Delhi's Wellness Center.

The workshops will run from 9–10:30 a.m., and 10:40 a.m.-12:10 p.m. To wrap up the activities is a lunch in ACC 116.

To register for these informative workshops, visit www2.mvcc.edu/training/sept/

Let the games begin!

Faculty and staff recruited for intramurals

If you thought The Hunger Games were brutal, get ready for some real excitement on the Utica Campus.

This year's intermural competitions have been expanded to include teams consisting of MVCC faculty and staff. And the recruitment of several employees has been intense.

"This is being done to add another dimension to the intermural and it also gives the students a chance to meet their instructors outside of the classroom environment," said Michelle Kelly, who is organizing the games.

Teams can consist of all students, all MVCC employees or a mixture. These are co-ed competitions. For a faculty or staff member who hasn't been recruited, they can also register to participate as a "Free Agent." Kelly said she will then connect a Free Agent with a team which is looking for another participant. If there are enough Free Agents, another team can be created.

And what is in store for the competitors? Everyone will receive a t-shirt and there will be prizes for the champion teams. At the planned barbeque in the spring, there will also be an award for the male and female who participated in the most events.

The sporting events will include tennis, flag football, 3-on-3 basketball, volleyball, and indoor soccer. There will be leagues, one-day tournaments and special events such as The Turkey Trot, a one-mile run around campus which revives a long-lost tradition. This run will be held Thursday, Nov. 15, in celebration of Thanksgiving.

Tournaments will include Can Jam – a Frisbee game – dodge ball, badminton, and 3-on-3 basketball.

Registration forms for teams and individuals can be downloaded from the MVCC website (www.mvcc.edu/intramurals) and are available at the front desk in the Jorgensen Center as well as in JC 111.

Registration deadline for flag football (7-10 on a roster) is Wednesday, Sept. 5.

For questions or more information, contact Michelle Kelly at mkelly@mvcc.edu or call 792-5425.