Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of August 6, 2012

Fall Semester kicks off with August Institute

Start the Fall Semester off with personal and professional growth and development by attending one of the many August Institute workshops on Tuesday, Aug. 14.

The MVCC August Institute is a full day of excellent speakers and food. MVCC faculty and staff can attend as many events as they wish and join their co-workers for a lunch with music.

Be sure not to miss this Institute's Plenary Speaker, famed National Geographic photographer Steve Uzzell, at 9:30 a.m. in the IT Theater.

Uzzell's presentation will show how the open road never fails to open your mind. Once the mind is open, the power of the imagination is released and this formidable power knows no bounds. Uzzell uses his mind-stretching images as illustrations about possibility and creativity, inspiring the audience to make any venture an adventure. Learn to put this perspective to work every day. Uzzell's approach to his photographic work serves as a universal blueprint for problem solving.

The audience will not only learn to be open to solutions that are unexpected, but that preparation lays the groundwork for magic to happen. "Chance favors the prepared mind," said Louis Pasteur. After all, Uzzell says, "Our eyes see only what our mind is prepared to comprehend."

At 11:00 a.m., feel free to join everyone in the second floor lobby of the IT Building for a Plenary Café Conversation. Or head right to another event, including Teaching Squares 2012 Project Kickoff, a Residence Hall Tour, Emotional Intelligence: Student Efficacy and Student Success, or Web Content Management. Following the 11:00 a.m. events, join fellow faculty and staff members for a casual lunch in the IT Lobby. Come enjoy a full box lunch and music.

At 1:00 p.m., the fun continues. Take part in the Facilitator Training for MVCC Core Workshop, or Bloom's Revisited. Or there are other workshops including U.S. Postal Service Cost Saving Seminar: "Saving Today to Ensure Tomorrow," Faculty Tech Club, and "Hawkeye, Judicial and BERT, Oh My."

From there, the events of the day continue with workshops at 2:30 p.m. These include At Your Service: Building Richer Student Experiences Through Internships and Service Learning, Academic Advising, Vietnam: Adventure and Perspectives, and Yoga Class.

For more information about any event, visit http://www2.mvcc.edu/training/aug.

Submit information for Communitas to rhaubert@mvcc.edu

Former MVCC athlete wins Olympic bronze

The summer wrapped up with the Olympic Games in London this month and MVCC was well represented. Former MVCC track and field star Lalonde Gordon won a bronze medal in the 400-meter run last week.

Lalonde Gordon

Gordon, of Trinidad and Tobago, finished the race in 44:52 seconds, behind Kirani James (43.94), of Grenada, and Luguelin Santos (44.46), of the Dominican Republic.

Gordon, who attended MVCC for the 2008-2009 academic year, represented his native country of Trinidad and Tobago. He came to MVCC from the Bronx where he graduated from Fordham Leadership Academy. While competing for MVCC, he was a member of the relay team which set the school record in the 400-meter relay with 41.95 seconds.

In post-season competition, Gordon won the 200-meter run, and ran a leg on the winning 400-meter and 1,600-meter relay team at the NJCAA Region III Championships. At the NJCAA national championships, Gordon placed in the top eight of the 100-meter, 200-meter, 400-meter relay and 1,600-meter relay events.

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

When it comes to getting the mail out, Terry Walters is not hindered by rain, snow or sunshine. She has been key to the mailroom for 25 years and was recently recognized for her service. As the College's Mail Clerk, Terry keeps track of the College's postal budget, U.S. Postal Service regulations and the volume of information flowing into and out of the College. She joined MVCC on November 16, 1987. ▲

Julie M. Sweet was among a group of employees recognized this summer for their dedication and service to the College. Julie has been servicing the College community for 35 years as a Senior Officie Specialist 1. Working in the Facilities Office, Julie is instrumental in making sure the College remains operational. She joined MVCC on September 12, 1977. ▲

Whitesboro native wins Dr. Dyer Award

Professor George J. Searles, Ph.D., presented the 2012 Dr. Jim Dyer Award for Academic Excellence to Daniel P. Schug on June 18 during a ceremony in the Board Room.

This award is presented annually to the Liberal Arts graduate with the highest grade point average. Schug is from Whitesboro and finished with an outstanding 3.94 GPA.

"This year's award ceremony resonated even more significantly than usual for all of us, in view of Dr. Dyer's untimely death in May," said Dr. Searles. "Accordingly, this was a special occasion, not only to recognize Daniel's achievement but also as a tribute to Jim."

Dr. Dyer, who was born in 1936, had a profound impact on students at MVCC. His wife Madeleine was in attendance at the ceremony and extended her personal congratulations to Schug.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - Daniel P. Schug received the Dr. Jim Dyer Award for Academic Excellence earlier this summer. Seen here with him is Dr. Dyer's widow Madeleine. ▶

MVCC helps young entrepreneurs start up

MVCC joined forces this summer with the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce and area businesses to the launch of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) – a groundbreaking program that takes middle and high school students through the process of starting and launching their own real businesses or social movements over the course of an academic year.

Throughout this project-based program, students will meet with local business leaders, generate real business ideas, pitch their business plans in front of investors, and launch their own real, legal, profitable businesses. By the end of the class, students own and operate fully-formed and functioning businesses, which may be continued after graduation from the program. YEA! was developed at the University of Rochester with support from The Kauffman Foundation.

Several local sponsors have already pledged to support YEA! at MVCC with multi-year financial commitments, including Mohawk Ltd., Beebe Construction Services, First Source Federal Credit Union, and the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce. At least five scholarships will be available to YEA! students and the MVCC Foundation is seeking additional investment to provide scholarships. YEA! aligns with initiatives in MVCC's "Challenge and Opportunity" major gifts campaign, including elevating local teens' educational and career objectives and creating more opportunities for successful entrepreneurship in the Mohawk Valley.

"We stand ready to promote college readiness and interest among middle and high school students through the Young Entrepreneurs Academy," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. "This unique and challenging experience will inspire the students who participate and make the Mohawk Valley a more favorable environment for all kinds of entrepreneurs and employers."

The program requires a nine-month commitment from its young executives. In that time they brainstorm and form their enterprises, make pitches to potential investors, obtain funding, register their companies with governmental agencies, and actually launch their own company or social movement. Business mentors, graphic designers, and local entrepreneurs support the students throughout the program and all of the learning is real and experiential.

"One of the most interesting components of the program is the actual behind the scenes knowledge the students are given from local business leaders, who were at one time standing in the same shoes." said Pamela Matt, Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. "The experience is something students will be able to apply to whatever field they choose to enter, thereby giving them the necessary skills to become future leaders of industry."

YEA! - Cathy Newell, President of Mohawk Ltd., talks about the benefits of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) during a press conference earlier this year. MVCC has joined several regional industry leaders to promote young people starting their own business. Looking on is MVCC President Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner.

"We are excited about the expansion and specifically chose Mohawk Valley Community College because of its reputation for academic excellence," said Gayle Jagel, the CEO and founder of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy. "We are urging all local business leaders to become involved with the program and act as mentors to the budding entrepreneurs." By partnering with YEA!, large and small businesses volunteer their time and services acting as mentors, field trip hosts, guest lecturers, graphic designers, web developers, attorneys, and more. The 30-week program begins in November and runs through June. Classes will be held at MVCC's' Utica Campus and organized by the College's CCED office.

To learn more information about the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, visit www.yeausa.org .

David Katz presents at two conferences

David R. Katz III spent the early portion of the summer attending two conferences where he presented on motivation and classroom management.

At the first conference, he gave the plenary presentation to around 200 faculty from 11 campuses of the Colorado Mountain College at the Spring Valley campus which is located outside of Glenwood Springs, Colorado in the Roaring Fork Valley. This conference was Colorado Mountain College's version of MVCC's Summer Institute.

Katz

Katz, a Professor of Political Science/ History and Coordinator of Faculty/Staff Enrichment at MVCC, gave a presentation titled "Emotional Intelligence, Efficacy & Success" where he discussed changing the attitudes of colleagues. He talked on how each member of the faculty can have a profound impact upon the emotional state of the people they interact with every day.

"He was awesome and we thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and his very approachable style," said Dr. Deborah Schmitt, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Colorado Mountain College. "Many of the faculty mentioned that they liked the message and that it made an impact."

The second conference Katz attended was the National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development's 34th annual "International Conference on Teaching & Leadership Excellence." He and Professor Bill Hysell attended many of the workshops.

Katz presented a workshop on "Classroom Management & Student Motivation" which was attended by 50 people representing community colleges throughout North America and was very well received.

"This conference work will further our development of MVCC's extensive cutting edge professional enrichment program, which includes activities like August Institute and New Faculty Orientation," said Katz.

MVCC employees picnic once again hit of summer

Once again this August the MVCC Employee Picnic was a huge hit with more than 150 people taking part. Participants were extremely grateful for the organization provided by Jeanne Litz in the Office of Records and Registration as they enjoyed hamburgers, cheeseburgers and hotdogs with dozens of homemade dishes provided by employees.

This annual event is a great opportunity for people in every office and center to chat with colleagues across the College.

Raffle winners are:

Golf Balls: Franca Armstrong, Marianne Buttenschon, Mark Murphy, and Rose Manley.

Fanny Pack: Kim Carhart and Christine Rabideau.

Golf Shirt: Mike Henningson, Jim Sunderhaft, and Jennifer Boulanger.

Bookstore Gift Card: Mary Jane Parry, Janet Visalli, Kate Clifton.

MVCC Reusable Bag: Rich Pucine.

For the winners who have not yet picked up their prize, contact Jeanne Litz.

Job Listings at MVCC

Job Title: Assistant to the Office of Learning and Academic Affairs

Salary: Low $30's

Qualifications: Must be a current MVCC Employee with an Associate degree; general office technology and operational skills; and five years of related professional experience required. Bachelor's degree preferred. Executive level office experience and ability to manage conflicting priorities preferred.

Duties: Responsible for providing administrative and office support for the Office of Learning and Academic affairs. Works independently on a variety of office administration functions including those of a sensitive and confidential nature. Maintains finanacial and budgetary details for Learning and Academic Affairs. Monitors information retrieval requirements, including those necessary for various personnel functions of recruitment, promotion, continuing/career appointment and Cabinet activities.

Application Deadline: August 15, 2012

Job Title: Student Services Specialist - Adult Learner Enrichment

Salary: Low $40's

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree required, Master's degree preferred. Excellent computer and communication skills including database experience required. Demonsrated ability to multitask, interact with a diverse student body and be a team player with internal and external constituents.

Duties: Support the non-traditional student population with educational plans, referrals, resources, career exploration and services which address their unique and special needs.

Special Instructions to Applicants: Must be a current MVCC employee.

Application Deadline: August 17, 2012

Morrison honored for work

Kenny Morrison from the Admissions Office was recognized this summer for his outstanding work.

Morrison

At the annual SUNY College Admissions Professionals (SUNYCAP) conference, Morrison was the recipient of the SUNYCAP Admissions Profession Award.

This award goes to the SUNY Admissions professional who "exemplifies the best our profession has to offer. For modeling behaviors others can both learn from and aspire to."

Morrison has been at MVCC for just over a year and has quickly established himself as one of the "go to" people on campus. He has worked with athletics and marketing departments to make the College's website more appealing and informative. He has also been instrumental in the organization of the College's Facebook presence.

With a background as an admissions counselor, recruiter and radio DJ, he has proven to be a great asset at MVCC.