Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of December 10, 2012

WISE forum focuses on successful women

Room 225 in the Information and Technology Building was packed as Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) hosted an open forum entitled "You CAN Do It All" with two extremely successful women as the guest speakers.

Christine Ceely and Linda Rockwood talked to more than 75 students on how they have found career success in fields which are mostly populated by male figures. Both Ceely and Rockwood have risen to the top.

Ceely, who is an MVCC alumna, works for the Oneida County Water Condition Control Center as a Senior Lab Technician. In an office of nearly 50 men, she admitted it was a bit daunting at first but she knew she had to make her mark and that would earn the respect of her colleagues.

With degrees in electrical and civil engineering, Ceely is researching side-by-side comparisons of waste materials, bio/oxygenation and other analysis in order for Oneida County to be in compliance with state regulations. "Working for the county has been a real pleasure as they are very accommodating for family stuff and furthering my education," said Ceely. "I feel my job is very important because we are making sure there is clean water for future generations."

She talked further about how women in the civil engineering field are beginning to make great strides, but there is still work to be done.

Rockwell, whose background is in computer programming, discussed the importance of balancing work and family in order to be successful. She was hired out of college by Kodak for what was her dream job. After four years, she moved to Baltimore to work in the research and development labs at W.R. Grace Chemicals. This position offered upward mobility for the next 12 years.

She returned to Central New York to raise her family while beginning her own software company, Mohawk Valley GIS (Geographic Information Systems). Rockwood talked to the students about working with data in the fields of spatial technology education and mapping solutions.

YES YOU CAN - Christine Ceely talks to students about how she found success in a field populated mostly by men. She was one of two speakers at a forum on "You CAN Do It All" hosted by MVCC's Women in Science and Engineering.

"Back in the 1970s and 80s, it was a tough field for women to break into," said Rockwood. "But I loved the work and you have to be willing to put your whole heart and soul into it."

Her current work is designing trail systems on the internet for the New York State Snowmobile Association. She employs five sub-contractors who are located throughout the Northeast. Her advice to the students was: "Get out there and take advantage of every opportunity. Establish yourself, no matter where it takes you."

The College's WISE group is helping to promote and encourage women in the science and engineering fields.

Updated directory needs your review

Information Technology and Marketing and Communications announce phase I of the college's ongoing project to improve accuracy in Banner recording and reporting of directory information such as job titles and academic credentials. The pilot rollout of the updated information will be next week's Winter Commencement program. We are asking for help from everyone at College.

Go to this link (http://www.mvcc.edu/MarComm/employee-list) and review your own name and information to make sure it is correct. If there are any corrections or changes, contact Sharon Zohne at szohne@mvcc.edu by the end of Monday, Dec. 17. We will continue to update and improve the directory for future editions of the program, college catalog, Web site, and more.

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

With the refugee population in Oneida County, the College has been working to meet needs through its English as a Second Language Certificate. For more than 10 years, Alison Doughtie has been working to help these students acclimate to a new country through teaching English.

She was recently recognized for her years of service.

As a member of the Center for Language and Learning Design, Alison teaches Beginning English Skills 2 (SL100 ESL2) where she helps expand non-native English speakers' abilities in language skills. She works with her students to build on the survival skills of Beginning English Skills 1 by further developing the ability to read, write, speak, and understand English.

Alison holds the rank of Associate Professor and is president of the Professional Association. She earned her bachelor's degree from Rice University in Houston and a masters degree from Indiana University.

Athlete of the Week

The men's basketball team has continued on a strong pace to return to the playoffs with back-to-back-to-back series of victories last week.

Getman

Leading the Hawks this past week was freshman guard Basil Harley, earning him the honor of MVCC Athlete of the Week. Harley scored 11 points in the Hawks' 72-55 victory over Jefferson CC while tallying another 11 points in MVCC's triumph over Hudson Valley CC, 62-45.

This freshman General Studies major is leading the Hawks with an 85 percent free throw percentage along with an average of 11 points and three assists.

Harley is a graduate of Wadleigh High School.

International Cafe

MVCC celebrated International Education week earlier this semester by hosting an International Café for students, faculty and staff.

Six students - Jessica Abega, David Htay, Adnan Huric, Kazuki Maeshiro, Paw Soe, and Eh Le Tha - presented information to an enthusiastic audience about their home countries. Each student highlighted places of interest and shared historical and personal narratives that gave the audience a true sense of their homeland and individual experiences.

The students' contributions to MVCC's International Education Week helped to enrich participants' global awareness. It also helped the audience to understand more fully the very diverse experiences of our international, immigrant and refugee students. Beyond personal enrichment, this knowledge will inform our College's planning to ensure that our international, immigrant and refugee students retain the support services that make their educational experiences more meaningful and enjoyable.

The International Café was the first of an ongoing series of events sponsored by the International Initiatives Committee. More information on spring semester events will be available campus-wide in the near future.