Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of December 17, 2012

DeJohn, Rome Futures Academy recognized on state level

MVCC's Center for Corporate and Community Education (CCED) was recently recognized on the state level for exemplary work in promoting the richness of the Mohawk Valley.

During the annual Continuing Education Association of New York which was held at Giddeon Putnam Resort in Saratoga Springs, Carolyn DeJohn was presented the 2012 Outstanding New Continuing Education Professional Award. DeJohn has been the driving force behind the success of the College's non-credit community education classes which have nearly double since joining the MVCC community three years ago.

"Carolyn's professional attitude has consistently worked for the College in producing work of exceptional quality," said Franca Armstrong, Director of CCED. "Her contribution to our continuing education programs and her involvement in our community demonstrate the professional worthy of this award."

DeJohn has been the Coordinator of Community Education for three years during which time she has expanded course offerings, the development of new online courses, and maintaining community partnerships to ensure the success of program participants.

The second award presented to CCED was for the Rome Futures Academy which was presented the James C. Hall Program Award in the category of Exemplary Non-Credit Program Development.

The Rome Futures Academy was a four-week program at MVCC's Rome campus serving incoming ninth grade students from the Rome City School District whose skills may have been sufficient to pass middle school but will not meet the requirements of high school. Priority was given to students from low-income families.

Students choose from two career tracks, health care or information technology, with a special focus on career development and literacy. The hands-on program featured fun projects, activities, and field trips that were intended to help students explore their chosen career track. The summer program, underwritten by a grant from the Rome Community Foundation, was provided at no cost to the students.

Carolyn DeJohn

◀ **GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON –** Bailey Curtis and Terry Schwaner helped spread some of the Christmas joy to their co-workers Friday morning by playing holiday tunes in the third floor hallway of Payne Hall. The joyous music drew people out of their offices for the serenade. Curtis is the Office Specialist for the Center for Social Sciences, Business and Information Sciences, and Schwaner is the Dean of the Center for Health and Life Sciences.

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

In his 35 years of service, Dan Porcelli has witnessed the evolution of technology at the College which went from piles and piles of paper to electronic communications and billing. As the head of the Office of the Bursar for the past eight years, Dan has been instrumental in the development of the electronic billing system and making sure students' accounts are current.

"This has led to more efficient ways of reaching the student and parent population in order for them to have a smooth transition into the college environment," said Porcelli, who is responsible for sending bills and making payment plans with the ultimate goal of bringing all student accounts to a "paid off" status.

Prior to being appointed Bursar, Dan worked in the Business Office as a financial aid accountant for nearly 20 years. When he joined the MVCC community, the Business Office was located where the current Board Room is on the third floor of Payne Hall. It was soon moved to the former Academic Building Courtyard where a "One Stop Shop" was set up for student services. The offices were once again moved on January 5, 2001 to its current location.

Dan's other responsibilities include helping students complete the registration process, charge-backs, online payment plans and the student registration system among others.

Dan's greatest memory was in November 2001 when he and Kate Barefoot came in on a Saturday morning to have the first student complete their online registration. As a test case, Dan asked his son Daniel to do the honors. Dan has also been extremely collegial over the years through his work on the Process Review Board, Student Service Advisory Committee, Calendar Committee and as a member of the New York State Bursar Association. His dedication was recognized last year when he was presented the Pride of the Hawk Award and then the Pride of the Pride Award.

"I feel my greatest accomplishment is that I come in every day with the attitude that 'my next day of work is like my first day on the job.' I love what I do," said Porcelli.

CLIPPING FOR EDUCATION - For the second year in a row, Dr. Janice Bell helped organize and implement the collection of Box Tops for Education which benefited local schools. For the Fall semester, Dr. Bell's efforts enabled students, faculty and staff at MVCC to collect 2,500 box tops which benefited Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School in Utica. Each eligible school participating in the Box Tops for Education program may earn up to $20,000 cash per year from this program. School will earn 10 cents for each box top redeemed. From left are: Dr. Maryrose Eannace, VP of Learning and Academic Affairs; Mary Lourdes Heaton, librarian; Meredith Salisbury, parent liaison; Mark DeSalvo, principal; Amy Pfranger, MVCC student; Dr. Bell, Instructor , Psychology and human services; MVCC President Randall VanWagoner.

Clinton students wins MVCC math competition

Several area high school students received awards at a mathematics competition held at MVCC in November.

Students from 14 local high schools competed for prizes as individuals and as members of a team. The exam consisted of 20 questions at the pre-calculus level, taken from arithmetic, algebra of real and complex numbers, geometry, trigonometry, and the elementary notions of counting, probability, statistics, and logic.

Individual winners were as follows:

1st Place: Dan O'Neil from Clinton High School.

2nd Place: Anjie Liu of New Hartford.

3rd Place: Kyle Bojnek from Rome Free Academy.

The team from Clinton High School received the highest ranking. Members were Will Orvis, Anthony Rizzo, Dan O'Neil and Noah Stanco. The team coach was Michael Stanton. The team from Poland High School received a special "spirit" award.

Winners received gifts from the college's Bookstore, software packages, mathematics book, gift cards, free courses at MVCC, and a cash gift. The first place winner was also awarded the full-tuition MVCC Presidential Scholarship.

Did You Know!

29 percent of Fall-2012 students are at least 25 years old?

Celebration raises money for Newtown

The College celebrated the completion of another semester last week with the Celebration of Success. This year's event held special meaning in the effort to raise money for charity as news of the elementary school shooting dominated much of the conversation.

"It was decided prior to the event that we were going to donate all the money raised to the families in Connecticut. It was such a horrific tragedy and this was viewed as the best way we as a college community could help," said Marie Kohl, Coordinator of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations. "It was nice to have the college community come together and give so generously."

The Employee Recognition Committee wanted to the offices/departments/centers which donated items to the event's annual Celebration of Success fundraiser. We would like to also thank everyone who supported this fundraiser.

This semester's event raised $1,000 which will be given to the Whitestown Benevolent Assoc., which is going to Connecticut on Friday to personally deliver gifts, gift cards and donations to the Newtown residents.

"It is wonderful to work in an environment where everyone is so giving," said Kohl.

The Celebration of Success was held on the second floor of the Information Technology Building with the basket raffle being held in the lounge. There were 26 baskets and gifts donated from both campuses, but the most desired by far was the R2D2 cooler filled with lots of beverages provided by Sodexo Food Services.

Basket were donated by Learning Center, BISS Center, Vice President for Student Affairs Office, Advisement Team, Rome Campus Dean's Office, CCED, Institutional Advancement, Irish Festival, Vice President for Administrative Services, President's Office, Athletics and Physical Education, MVCC Libraries, Office of the Vice President for Learning and Academic Affairs, Center for Language and Learning Design, Sodexo Food Services, Admissions Office, Career Transfer Services/Adult Learner/Counseling, Center for Life and Health Sciences, Dorm Corporation, Center for Arts and Humanities, Facilities and Operations, Business Office, and Marketing & Communications Office.

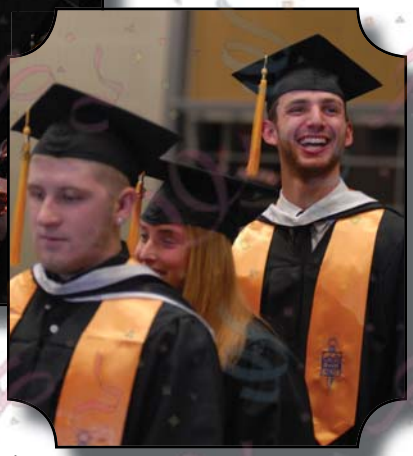
WINGS AWARD WINNERS – The economic environment in Central New York has been a struggle for many adults over the past 30 years. MVCC's Adult Learner Services has been throwing lifelines for decades to the many in the workforce who find themselves displaced. The work of this dedicated group of employees was recognized last week by their peers when the Office of Adult Learner Services was presented with MVCC's Wings of the Hawk during the Celebration of Success festivities. The office was chosen by the Admissions Office which was the recipient of the award for the Spring 2012. Seen here are: Patti Antanavige, Student Services Specialist for Adult Learner Services; Kevin Siembab, Student Services Specialist for Adult Learner Services; Janet Visalli, Director of Adult Learner Services; and Rosemarie Pastorella, Student Services Specialist for Adult Learner Services.

GIVING TO THE CAUSE – Members of the college presented Officer Frank McCully of the Whitestown Police Department a check for $1,000 from the MVCC community to be donated to the victims of the Newtown, Conn., shooting. Officers from the Whitestown Police Department are traveling to Newtown, Conn., to present the donations raised over the past week. The $1,000 was raised at the Fall Celebration of Success event. From left are: said Marie Kohl, Coordinator of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations; MVCC President Randall VanWagoner, Ph.D.; Officer McCully; and Frank DuRoss, Director of Institutional Advancement.

LaFountains have a girl

Jason LaFountain and his wife Audrey are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Tahlia Rose LaFountain (7.8 pounds, 19.5 inches). Tahlia Rose was born at 3:01 p.m. on Friday, December 14. Mom and baby are doing well.

2012 DECEMBER COMMENCEMENT



Grads inspired to overcome barriers in life

More than 200 December graduates received words of wisdom and encouragement during this week's Winter Commencement held in the Fieldhouse of the Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic and Events Center.

The Commencement speaker this semester was Dr. Sherry Anne Lints, who graduated from MVCC in 1993.

Dr. Lints graduated in the top 10 of her high school class, overcoming the physical obstacle of a bilateral hearing and speech impairment. Deciding to pursue a career in holistic medicine and natural healing, Dr. Lints went on to graduate with honors from New York Chiropractic College in 1998, after attending MVCC and Utica College of Syracuse University.

Dr. Lints talked on how overcoming obstacles can make you a stronger and better student, professional and person.

Dr. Lints is the founder of Better Health Chiropractic and has been serving the community since July 1999. She is also involved in community events and speaks regularly at student programs, such as the "Dream, Dare, Do" program, as well as other health and wellness events throughout the region.

A fan of music and drama, she recently appeared in two films and a Canadian TV show, where she sang a song from her self-titled debut CD. Songs from her current CD, "Keep on Prayin'," can be heard on radio stations across the globe.

The stars of the event then were honored and recognized as the December graduates became MVCC alums. They were individually recognized with their completed degree and certificate programs.