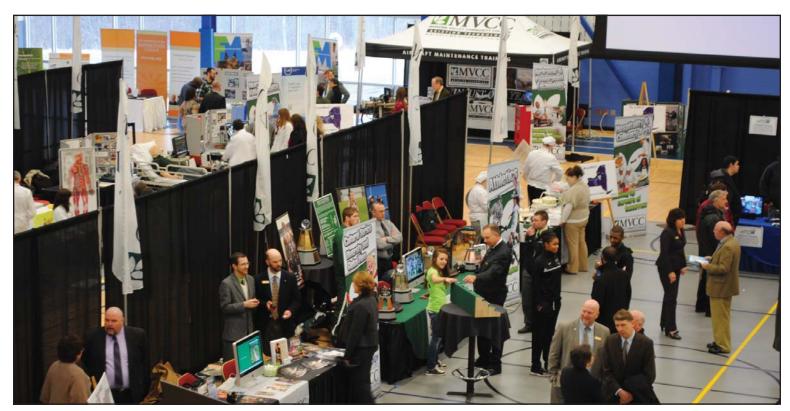


MVCC shines at SUNY Showcase



College shows its connections to the community

The pride of MVCC was shining over the Mohawk Valley last week when five programs were spotlighted at the SUNY Showcase on the campus of SUNY Institute of Technology.

This event was an opportunity for seven regional colleges to demonstrate the strengths and Power of SUNY to the public and community leaders. SUNY is a driving force behind the revitalization of Central New York through the training, retooling and preparation of tomorrow's workforce.

"We're proud to be a partner in this systematic approach. Like the other institutions, MVCC is at the center of our community. We offer many, many touch points where people can connect with our institution and be better for it," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. The theme of MVCC's presentations was "What's Your Connection?" demonstrating how the College's graduates impact the industry and lives of everyone in Central New York.

"Like all our sister community colleges and universities across SUNY, MVCC is proud of its connections. And so are our alumni and the employers who rely on them for a

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TOMORROW'S MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS – A Nursing student demonstrates how SimMan works for visitors to the SUNY Showcase, which was held last Thursday at SUNY Institute of Technology. Hundreds of community members and leaders attended the event which featured seven regional SUNY institutions.

MVCC recognizes Robert Lacell with Emeritus status

Robert Lacell was recognized for many years of outstanding service at MVCC by being presented the title of Administrator Emeritus at the October Board of Trustees meeting.

Lacell devoted 33 years to the betterment of the College as the director of marketing and communications before retiring in 2006.

His contributions to MVCC are countless with the remnants of his work having laid the foundation of what the College has become. His sense of duty and perfectionism helped him go above and beyond the scope of his office to help out whomever and wherever he could.

During his career, Lacell was the voice of the College, having written every word that the president spoke in public, and it was his hand that penned every word of ad copy, news releases, award nominations, and so much more. Every bit of public communication that came out of the College was written by Lacell, which means MVCC's identity in the eyes of the community was tactfully defined by his words.

MVCC was not just a job to Lacell, but one of his own children which he nurtured along to maturity. He developed a culture of communication within MVCC which remains to this day. He started the weekly newsletter "Communitas," and, adapting to technology, founded our daily "MVCC Today" e-mail.

Lacell's commitment to high quality is unwavering. The positive effects of his work are still helping the College today, long after his last campaign ended. He penned the phrase "MVCC Did It For Me!" and received a national Paragon Award for the campaign "Good Things Begin at MVCC," actions that set a high bar for all other marketing efforts.

Lacell loved what he did and loved the College. As an active member in the Ad Club organization, the United Way, and on many other community and College committees, he always represented the College with care and grace.

Lacell was humble and dignified in his manner as the voice of the College, and his invaluable work behind the scenes was always to benefit the College - never about his personal gain. Following the tragic death of his grandson, he launched a campaign to form the Daron Maleke Jay Simpson Scholarship at MVCC for which he has raised more than \$45,000.

His record-keeping skills were extraordinary, and on his own time, he compiled the only comprehensive history of the College which is an invaluable resource.





WINNING DESIGNS - Students from Mohawk Valley Community College's Graphic Design Theory 2 course were charged with developing new logos for two of Utica Roadrunners' 2012 feature races. From left are, Assistant Professor Doug Hyldelund, Micaela Alteri, Jon Lineberry, and Utica Roadrunners board member Jim Fiore.

Graphic design students create logos for Utica Roadrunners

The College's Graphic Design students recently competed on a project to design race logos for the Utica Roadrunners. The students developed 28 logos for two of the Utica Roadrunners' 2012 feature races.

The logo project was conceptualized within three sections of Assistant Professor Doug Hyldelund's Graphic Design Theory 2 course. The students were given strict design parameters to follow - considering color, theme and legible typography for specific print production applications. The winning logos will be used for all race promotions including website, printed applications and the race t-shirt.

The first race is the Save Our Switchbacks 7.5K run which will be held on Sunday, April 15, serving as a great event for individuals training for the Boilermaker 15K. The course winds through the scenic South Woods trails of Roscoe Conkling Park. The winning entry for this event was designed by Micaela Alteri, of Liverpool, N.Y.

"We loved the fact Micaela's design echoed both the woodsy feel of the course and a sense of running community," said Utica Roadrunners board member and former president, Jim Fiore, who is also a Professor in MVCC's STEM Center.

The Summer Sizzle 5-Miler is another popular local race and takes place on Sunday, June 17. The winning entry was designed by Jon Lineberry, of Ithaca, N.Y. "We felt Jon's design would look particularly nice on the race shirt while still working well in other media," said Fiore.

"We try to cater to the needs of the community, taking on projects such as this for our students, to get the taste of real world graphic design applications whenever possible as it relates to the profession. The students get to add viable work to their portfolios," said Hyldelund. Previous student projects have included this year's Boilermaker logo, The Great American Irish Festival, The Unidilla Raceway, and other local community events and not-for profit organizational materials. "Everything is about giving back to the communities we serve and the student body we have helps in that effort," said Hyldelund.

More information on the Utica Roadrunners, The Save Our Switchbacks and Summer Sizzle races, and other events may be found at www.uticaroadrunners.org.

Message from the Desk of the President

Greetings,

With this year's budget process in high gear, I want to update you following the series of recent "Campus Conversations" on the subject. First, a sincere thank you to the ninety faculty and staff members who attended one or more of the seven conversations held on our two campuses over the past few weeks. The ideas and insights shared in those forums have been most helpful in shaping the approach toward developing this budget.

The coming year will present challenges both known and unknown. We are, I believe, well situated to carry out the institution's core commitments to our students and the community. In all likelihood, given the financial condition of the State and County, we will have fewer supporting resources. Often, in times like these, we're asked to "do more with less." I think now is the time for us to increase our institutional focus and consider doing "better with less." The challenges we face will likely require a leaner staffing plan and more limited operating resources. If that is the result, I intend for us to respond by focusing exclusively on the things that matter, the things we do best. We cannot lose sight of our core strategic commitments to our students and our community at this critical time.

As a reminder, we face the following situation:

Enrollment

The College budget is driven by enrollment - the more enrollment grows, the more tuition and state aid we receive.

- From 1991-92 to 2001-02 = (-11.5%).
- From 2001-02 to 2006-07 = (+4.4%).
- From 2007-08 to 2011-12 = (+29.5% est.) w/15 consecutive semesters of increases.
- This spring enrollment is likely to be a decrease or level with spring of last year.

At this point, we are projecting enrollment to be down 1% for next year.

Budget - State & County

- Until 2007, the last per FTE cuts in state aid were 2004 (-3%) and 1992 (-5%).
- Since 2007, we've had 3 years of level state funding, a -15.5% cut last year, and -6.1% cut this year.
- State aid is at the same level of funding per FTE as 2001.
- If we were funded at the 2009-10 level, we'd have an additional \$3.2 million for 2012-13.

Although we're advocating for an increase, we are planning on level funding from the State.

We are planning on a 4th consecutive year of level funding from the County, which hasn't happened since the early 1980s.

Other - Tuition & Fund Balance

- We're trying not to exceed more than 3% or about a \$100 increase per FTE.
- We've spent our fund balance down to the minimum SUNY guideline level over the past two budgets, and based on projections, we'll allocate \$1 million in fund balance.

These budget assumptions provide revenue between \$1.75 and \$2 million lower than this current year's budget - this is before any requested or required budget increases – resulting in the first budget to budget decrease in 15 years.

I shared this information during the budget conversations and received a number of good ideas and suggestions for increasing revenue and decreasing expenses. While budget requests are not due until March 2nd, a number of efforts are currently under way to address the budget challenges. We are currently:

- Reviewing the student fee schedule to make adjustments as necessary.
- Reviewing our processes for employing more work study students (paid for through federal financial aid) and decreasing the student hourly lines in our operating budget.
- Offering a retirement incentive similar to the one last year. Thursday, our Board of Trustees approved incentives to be offered to up to eight (combined) AMVA members and Excluded administrative staff; six members of the Professional Association; and four members of UPSEU.
- Taking a closer look at our overall staff plan, in which we invest close to 85% of our overall budget in personnel and benefits, it is likely that we will need to reduce staffing. We will seek to do this thoughtfully via attrition, the retirement incentive and unfilled vacancies wherever possible. In this budget we will be scrutinizing all current and anticipated vacancies, and all proposals for new positions, to determine whether we must have those positions to meet our strategic goals.
- Reviewing the extent to which the MVCC Foundation and the Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC) can be more intentional in supporting the operating budget of the College.
- Examining travel budgets and other large budget lines where savings may be realized.
- Identifying enrollment priorities that can have a positive effect on sustaining or increasing enrollment while increasing our commitment to student success.

I know there's not much comfort to be derived from this picture. We have a variety of things to consider. Fortunately, many of the ideas presented during the Campus Conversations, and through other venues, suggest opportunities that will result in our being able to present the MVCC Board of Trustees with a balanced budget that will certainly provide MVCC with a foundation for being and doing better, regardless of the challenges.

I look forward to working with you to insure MVCC's ability to promote student success and community involvement through a commitment to excellence and a spirit of service.

If you have any questions, additional suggestions/ideas, or concerns, please let me know.

Thanks

Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., President

Shed those unwanted pounds by taking part in MVCC's own Biggest Loser Contest

With the first day of spring just weeks away, MVCC is hosting its own Biggest Loser Contest to help shed those few unwanted winter pounds. Prizes will be given to the top two teams that lose the most body fat percentage.

The contest will begin after Spring Break with the official weigh-in on Monday, March 19. All teams must register by March 9. For more information, contact Michelle Scranton at mscranton@mvcc. edu or 792-5425.



RINGS OF CHAMPIONS – Mike Fahy, a member of the MVCC baseball team, helps a youngster try on one of the College's Rings of Champions during the SUNY Showcase. MVCC has 22 rings representing the 22 national team championships the Hawks have won.

MVCC connects at Showcase

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well-trained workforce and healthy, globally competitive communities. I'm pleased to have the chance today to make more connections with all of you guests at SUNY Showcase," said Dr. VanWagoner.

Other SUNY institutions taking part in the SUNY Showcase were Herkimer County Community College, SUNY IT, Empire State College, SUNY Oneonta, Fulton-Montgomery

Community College, and SUNY Morrisville.

The five programs chosen to demonstrate the College's theme exemplify the broad cross section of educational and economic connections that are possible at MVCC. The opportunities for graduates of the Airframe and Powerplant program continue to grow at Griffiss Industrial and Technology Park as do the opportunities for students in MVCC's Hospitality program.

MVCC graduates sample

Diversity and Global View experiences from around the world, which prepare them to succeed as they transfer to other colleges, and to succeed in leading lives of awareness and respect. Also on exhibit was how MVCC's student-athletes have proven successful while competing for the Hawks and then gone onto to be successful throughout their lives.

The Nursing and Allied Health exhibit demonstrated how the College's students connect with health care providers and patients as part of their curriculum and again as alumni. MVCC's health care education pays dividends in every hospital, doctor's office, insurer, and wellness provider in communities all across this region.

"Our college makes a point of using events like this to learn – to improve our responsiveness to our students' and our partners' changing needs," said Dr. VanWagoner.



Athlete of the Week

The women's bowling team is well on its way to capturing another NJCAA National Championship on the heels of winning the Region III crown this past weekend.

Leading the way for the Hawks was Sarah Foley, whose efforts earned her the honor of MVCC Athlete of the Week for the week ending February 19. Foley scored a



Foley

190 average at the Region III Tournament to be the Hawks top gun.

This freshman Adolescence Education major was named to the All-Conference and All-Region III teams this season. She is a graduate of Rome Free Academy.



ADVOCACY VISIT – Members of the College's CSTEP attended a forum on education funding. Pictured are (front row) Danielle Ingber and Albert Rudder. Back row, Tess Tessfalidet and Nyeshia Hicks.

CSTEP lobbies the benefits of financial aid in Albany

Members and staff of the College's CSTEP joined more than 900 high school and college students, faculty, and staff from 55 colleges and universities in Albany for New York Student Aid Alliance Advocacy Day on February 7.

The students came together to share their stories about the value of state funded student aid programs, including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), Grad TAP, the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), the Science and Technology Entry programs (STEP/C-STEP), and the Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP).

The members of MVCC's CSTEP met with Senator Joseph Griffo and Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi to discuss how these aid programs impact their college aspirations.