Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of January 16, 2012

Campus Conversations with Dr. VanWagoner

As the 2012-13 budget process gets underway, MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., is hosting informational meetings across the college community in an effort to give faculty and staff input into the process.

Dr. VanWagoner held his first two Campus Conversations on Monday – on the Rome Campus in the morning and in Utica later in the day. These and follow-up Campus Conversations are open to all college employees as the administration seeks feedback on how to create a balanced budget for the next fiscal year. At this point in the development cycle, MVCC is facing a $1.7 million deficit based on preliminary revenue projections.

Despite level funding from Oneida County and dramatic cuts in state aid, MVCC has been able to avoid reductions in programs and staff due to a continual increase in enrollment, which has increased for 15 consecutive semesters. In the past five years alone, MVCC's enrollment has increased 29.5 percent but this trend is not likely to continue as the number of high school graduates in New York State is projected to decrease 25 percent over the next 10 years. The conversations give employees a venue for inquiry into these financial realities and the budget-making process.

All those in attendance are encouraged to provide constructive suggestions and feedback on ways the college can continue to meet the needs of the students, faculty and staff while maintaining a balanced budget.

Upcoming dates

Thursday, Jan. 19
2:30 - 4 p.m. – Utica AB145

Monday, Jan. 23
1:30 - 3 p.m. – Utica AB143

Wednesday, Jan. 25
1:30 - 3 p.m. – Rome PCA32

Tuesday, Jan. 31
2:30 - 4 p.m. – Utica AB145

Wednesday, Feb. 1
1:30 - 3 p.m. – Utica AB143

MVCC
MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Emmett Loori recipient of NYS Sheriff's scholarship

MVCC's Emmett Loori was the recipient of the $250 New York State Sheriffs Association Institute's 2011 Criminal Justice Scholarship.

Loori was recognized for excellence in his field of study and will graduate this May with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice. The certificate and scholarship were presented by Oneida County Sheriff Robert Maciol during a ceremony on MVCC's Utica Campus.

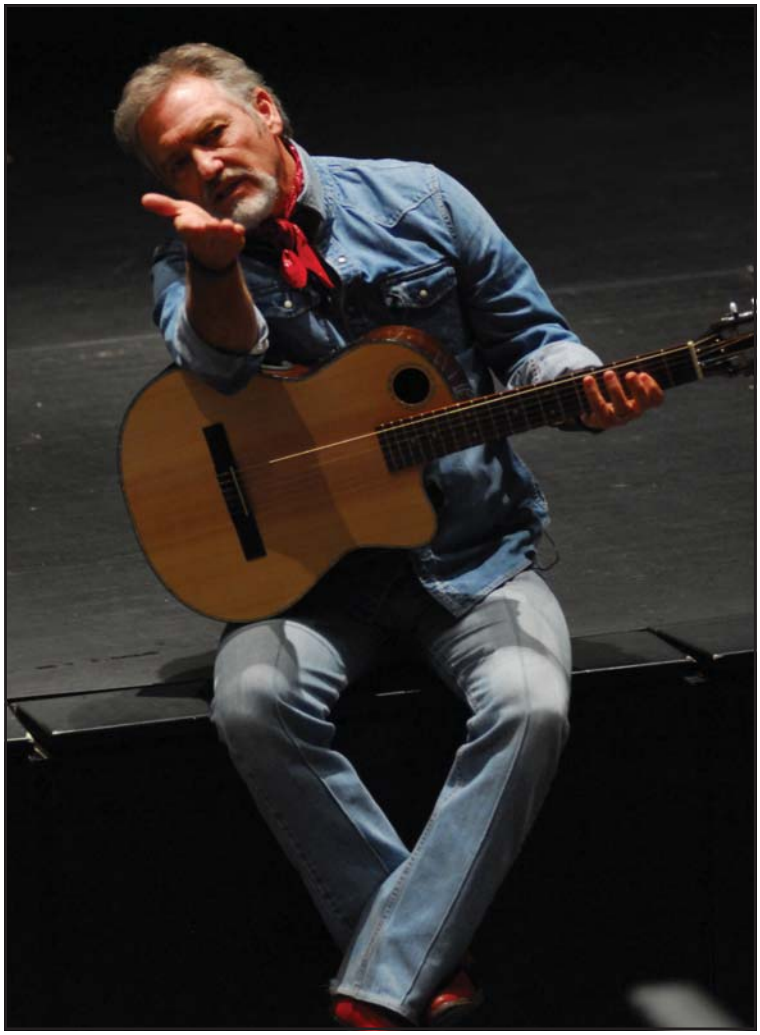
Loori is a native of Cassville and graduate from Faith Christian School in Bridgewater. He is the son of Eric Loori.

◁**SCHOLARSHIP WINNER -** Oneida County Sheriff Robert Maciol presented Mohawk Valley Community College Criminal Justice student Emmett Loori with the New York State Sheriffs Association Institute's 2011 Criminal Justice Scholarship.

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

Lisa Bullet brought the spirit of a giddy kid last week to a ceremony recognizing her for 30 years of service in the Business Office. MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner Ph.D. presented Lisa with kudos for her work and dedication in making sure the numbers add up. She began her career as a Data Processing Clerk on January 4, 1982.▲

When it comes to keeping everything spic and span in Daugherty Hall, the duties have been accomplished by Diane O'Donnell for the past decade. Diane was honored recently for her 10 years of service as a Residence Hall Housekeeper for the Dormitory Corporation. Working the day shift, she makes sure students have a clean and safe living environment. She joined the MVCC community in November of 2001. ▲



Larry Gatlin provides humor & inspiration

The first thing the audience learned when listening to Larry Gatlin at the January Institute was this: No one in the audience was immune to his wide-ranging wit and humor.

Gatlin provided all those in attendance a unique and intriguing insight on the ways of the world and how an individual's experiences can be applied to seeking success in any endeavor. Using his own life as a model, he discussed how his achievement of overcoming drugs and alcohol addiction made him a better and stronger man, and a better mentor to young musicians.

Displaying an immensely positive attitude, he sang and joked with members of the audience. Gatlin, the son of an oil driller and oldest of the three Gatlin brothers, continues to use his experiences to strengthen his talents and his mentees.

Following his presentation, he went on to take part in the Institute's yoga class being taught by Jeri George. He returned to the stage later in the evening for a live performance.

Tips on going Green

1. Turn off all lights when leaving your office.
2. Use a desk lamp with LED bulbs and leave the ceiling lights off.
3. Use a refillable coffee mug.
4. Bring water from home in a reusable bottle.
5. Don't print out meeting agendas.
6. When making copies, use both sides.

MVCC recognizes DiGiorgio with Emerita status

Denise DiGiorgio was recognized for many years of outstanding service at MVCC by being presented the title of Vice President for Student Services Emerita at the October Board of Trustees meeting.

DiGiorgio

DiGiorgio, who retired from MVCC in May, dedicated her professional career to the betterment of students at the College for 33 years. As the Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students, DiGiorgio was instrumental in making every student's experience at MVCC memorable and successful.

In her role at MVCC, she was responsible for overseeing the Office of Admissions, International Student Services, Counseling, Transfer and Placement, Residence Life, Student Activities, Placement Testing, Child Care, Health Center, Adult Learner Services, Records and Registration, High School Outreach, Disability Services, Residence Halls, First Year Experience, College-Wide Advisement, and the Student Service Center.

She worked for MVCC since 1978, after she earned her Associate in Arts degree from MVCC and her Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY Oswego. She went on to complete a Master of Science from SUNY Cortland in 1983.

During her career she served in numerous roles, including as Assistant to the Director of Placement and Transfer, Coordinator of Off-Campus Student Services, Executive Assistant to the President, and Special Assistant to the President for Student Services.

DiGiorgio worked with a variety of community service organizations, including Zonta Club of Utica, and the Utica Area Chamber of Commerce. She has participated in and/or coordinated numerous community events, including MVCC's Mayfest, MVCC Foundation Gala, Good Ole Summertime, Festival of Trees, NYS Special Olympics, and Mohawk Valley Creative Craft Show.

DiGiorgio's awards and recognitions include Outstanding Young Woman of America Award, BPW New Careerist District V Award, 2011 Salute to Outstanding Women by the YWCA, MVCC Alumna of Merit Award, Utica Rotary Distinguished Professional Award, the Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award, along with the 2011 Genesis Hall of Distinction Award and was honored as an Emerita Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students at MVCC this fall.

DiGiorgio resides in Utica where she was born and raised.

Dr. Searles has two poems published

George J. Searles, Ph.D., a Professor in the Center for Arts and Humanities, recently published two new poems.

The first can be found in the Fall issue of Third Wednesday (Ypsilanti, MI) while the second appears in the December issue of Home Planet News (High Falls, NY).

Take time to enjoy these creative works by Dr. Searles.

Board of Trustees' meeting schedule

The College's Board of Trustees meeting schedule for 2012 has been released. The meetings are typically held on the third Monday of each month, but there are a few exceptions this year.

For January, the meeting is being held on the fourth Monday of the month (Jan. 23) in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The June meeting will be one week earlier (June 11) as the third Monday of the month is the Foundation Golf Tournament.

Also of note, there will be no Board meetings in the months of February and July.

The remaining meetings are slated as follows: March 19, April 16, May 21, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, and Dec. 17.

CSTEP-STEP are now in ACC 203

The College's CSTEP and STEP programs have a new home this semester.

Under the direction of Christy Stephenson, CSTEP-STEP Coordinator, the offices have been moved to Room 204 in the Alumni College Center with the STEP/CSTEP Student Computer Lab/Study Area located in Room 204. To kick off the Spring semester, Stephenson is holding an Open House for CSTEP-STEP this Thursday, Jan. 19, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To learn more about the CSTEP and STEP programs, contact Christy Stephenson at 792-5351 or by email at cstephenson@mvcc.edu

Athlete of the Week

The Hawks are well on their way of returning to the Region III championship title game as they enter this week sporting a 13-3 record.

Lewis

Helping to make this success possible has been sophomore Del Lewis. Lewis was the driving piston behind the Hawks men's basketball team motoring away with three victories. For his performance, Lewis was named MVCC's Athlete of the Week for the week ending January 15.

Lewis averaged 15 points and eight rebounds per game as the Hawks flew past Corning Community College, Orange Community College and Globe Institute.

Lewis is a General Studies major from the Bronx.