Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of November 5, 2012

Vets play major role at MVCC

With the elections now behind and the country looking forward, let us not forget those who have REALLY made it possible for every American to enjoy our freedom. Sunday is Veterans Days and there will be parades and ceremonies throughout the region recognizing their sacrifices.

MVCC is steeped in tradition of honoring veterans and employs many men and women who have served. In honor of these individuals, we have asked them to help us recognize them by allowing us to list them in the column at right.

Since Veterans Day falls on Sunday this year, MVCC will be celebrating it on Monday in the quad of the Utica Campus under the flag poles beginning at 11 a.m.

Helping to mark the day, Proctor High School's Junior ROTC will conduct the flag raising ceremony with Taps being played. MVCC President Randall VanWagoner will be on hand to mark the ceremony, followed by Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente reading a proclamation.

Team MVCC has been conducting a food drive for veterans over the past two weeks and the results of these efforts will be announced. All donated food will go to help feed local veterans through the Feed Our Vets organization with items being accepted right up to the start of the ceremony. Drop-off locations are in the lobbies of Payne Hall and the Academic Building and the ACC Snack Bar on the Utica Campus. In Rome, donations can be dropped off in the Dean's Office in the Plumley Complex.

Following the closing remarks, there will be refreshments for everyone in the lobby of Payne Hall. The College has invited more than 250 current and past veterans who have attended MVCC to attend the ceremony.

Town hall meeting to focus on current educational issues

MVCC will host a town hall meeting with American Federation of Teachers (AFT) President Randi Weingarten and New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) President Richard Iannuzzi on Monday, Nov. 26.

Weingarten

The topic of discussion will be current educational issues and the role of the union in these changing times. The event is sponsored by the MVCC Professional Association.

Iannuzzi has served as president of NYSUT since April 2005, leading the union through a period of tremendous growth, with membership now at more than 600,000. A leading voice in the labor movement at both the state and federal levels, Iannuzzi serves as a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers and of the New York State AFL-CIO. He also serves as delegate to the national AFL-CIO and as co-chair of the New York State Labor-Religion Coalition.

Weingarten is president of the 1.5 million-member American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, which represents teachers; paraprofessionals and school-related personnel; higher education faculty and staff; nurses and other healthcare professionals; local, state and federal employees; and early childhood educators.

She was elected in July 2008, following 11 years of service as an AFT vice president.

The event will be held from 5-7 p.m. in the Schafer Theater in the Information Technology Building on the Utica campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Veterans at MVCC

John Bullis (Executive Director of Organizational Development) 2nd Class Petty Officer - Aviation Boatswains Mate (ABH-2) – U.S. Navy and U.S. Navy Reserves, 6 years of service

John Coleman (Instructor, Business and information technology) Sargent - U.S. Air Force, 5 years of service

Raymond Collins (Security + Adjunct) Corporal - U. S. Army, 9 years of service

Randy A. Dymond (Adjunct, Human Services & Psychology) Lieutenant Colonel – U.S. Army Reserve, 28 Years of Service

Thomas Jeff (Programmer Analyst) Spec 4 – U.S. Army, 2 years of service

Bruce Kurtz (Associate Professor, Engineering technologies trades) Captain - U.S. Army (1971-78), Pennsylvania Army National Guard (1978- 81), U.S. Air Force (1982-96), 21.5 years of service

Leland McCormac (Adjunct Professor, Criminal Justice) Lance Corporal - USMC Reserve, 5 years of service

Eugene Militello (21 years at MVCC, retired in 2005) Radioman First Class - U.S. Navy, 20 years of service

Morris Pearson (Director of Civic Responsibilities) E-5 Sargent – U.S. Army Reserves, 8 years of service

Steven Senior (Associate Professor, Physical education) Lance Corporal – USMC Reserves, 6 years of service

Jim Smrtic (Professor, Psychology and Human Services) Major - U.S. Army/Army Reserve, 25 years of service

Renae Sirles (Senior Administrative Specialist I) Staff Sergeant/E6 - New York Army National Guard, 20 years of service

Geri Sultenfuss (Senior Office Specialist I, Library) Marine Science Technician 3rd Class - U.S. Coast Guard, 4 years of service

Jack Susenburger (Assistant Professor, Business and Information Technology) Seaman, U.S. Navy, 3 years of service

John Swistak (Instructor, Mathematics) Staff Sargent – U.S. Air Force, 4 years of service

Jason Yager (Instructor, Business and Information Technology) Senior Airman – U.S. Air Force, 4 years of service

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

When it comes to literatures, Alina Mildred Treis, Ph.D., is a fanatic and loves passing her passion onto her students. She was recently recognized for her 10 years of service to the College's students as an inspiration to them.

Along with teaching English Composition and Ideas and Values in Literature, Dr. Treis is very active in promoting writing skills through clubs and organizations at MVCC. She is the advisor to the Student Voice – a monthly newsletter written by the students.

"Thank you all for taking the time to congratulate me on my 10 years of service," said Dr. Treis. "I enjoy working here and with people like you."

The passion of Dr. Treis, who is an Associate Professor in the Center for Arts and Humanities, goes beyond the borders of MVCC. Last year she published her book "Reflections of a Woman's Soul: a Book of Poems."

Currently, Dr. Treis is developing two distance learning programs – World Literature I, and World Literature II.

Dr. Treis is a native of Zanzibar and lived in Goa, India, before coming to the United States.

Athlete of the Week

The MVCC women's basketball team is off and running once again and this season it is being led by Mornique Murphy. She was the driving force behind the Hawks winning its season opening tournament, earning her the MVCC Athlete of the Week honor for the week ending November 4.

Murphy

Murphy averaged 10 points and eight rebounds in two games en route to the championship crown of the Anthony Torchia Classic. Following her outstanding performance, she was selected as the Tournament MVP.

Murphy is a sophomore General Studies major who graduated from William C. Bryant High School.

Submit information for Communitas to rhaubert@mvcc.edu

Student Congress holds raffle to help Hurricane Sandy victims

In the wake of the devastation caused by "Super Storm Sandy," the College's Student Congress has launched a campaign to raise relief funds for the victims in New York State and New Jersey. Student Congress, with the help of Team MVCC, will be holding a "Hurricane Sandy Relief Raffle" for the week of November 12-16 on the Utica and Rome campuses.

Through a generous donation of $3,000 from Student Congress, six gift cards worth $500 each will be raffled off. The gift cards are to Best Buy and Walmart as well as two gas cards.

Members of Student Congress, with the help of Team MVCC, will be selling raffle tickets every day at the following locations and times:

- Monday, Nov. 12 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - IT 1st Floor Lobby
- Tuesday, Nov. 13 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Rome Plumley Complex Atrium
- Wednesday, Nov. 14 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Payne Hall Lobby
- Thursday, Nov. 15 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - AB Lobby
- Friday, Nov. 16 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - ACC Snack Bar

Tickets will cost $1 for one ticket, $2 for three tickets and $5 for ten tickets.

The drawing will be held on Friday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. in the ACC Snack Bar with one prize per person (winners don't have to be present). All proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross.