Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of September 10, 2012

MVCC students paint mural for UCP

MVCC instructor David Nackley is no stranger to volunteering for the Upstate Cerebral Palsy home on Armory Drive in an effort to make the lives of the residents a bit more manageable.

Annually, Nackley volunteers to plow the garden for the students at the center and donates the hay, corn and corn stalks for the UCP annual Fall Festival. His work led to his recruiting of three students this past summer to help with a beautification project.

Students in the College's Fine Arts program spent part of the summer painting a mural on the exterior of a building in the UCP complex. Students Lori Collins, Mike Oeinck and Amy Miller, along with Nackley, spent more than 60 hours on the mural, which depicts a garden and pumpkin patch.

"The whole idea of the mural in the garden was to help the UCP students tie nature into the work they are doing in the garden. It is a great project for them to watch the fruits of their labor grow," said Nackley.

UCP provided the paint and the students used their own art supplies.

The mural is painted on a maintenance garage and can be seen from an actual pumpkin patch that the children plant each year.

"The mural means a lot to the kids – it's something beautiful they can always come and look at while they are gardening for years to come," said UCP Therapeutic Recreation Specialist Eric DeCarlis.

MVCC's students were recognized by the center, and Nackley received a volunteer award from UCP. The three MVCC students completed their Associate Degree this past May with Miller attending Hartwick College this fall.

Instructors receive Kellogg Institute certification

Two MVCC faculty members recently received certification as Developmental Education Specialists from the Kellogg Institute for the Training and Certification of Developmental Educators.

Instructors Erin Severs, of Clayville, and Alexander Haines-Stephan, of Clinton, were selected from educators across the United States to participate in the Kellogg Institute and its certification process during the 2011-12 academic year. Their practicum, which identified topics for workshops and seminars that will help other instructors better understand the developmental student, was listed as "exemplary" and was added to the Kellogg Institute resource library for future attendees to use as a model. The certification as Developmental Education Specialist is awarded through the Kellogg Institute, in conjunction with Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

The Kellogg Institute, now in its 34th year, offers a unique month-long living and learning experience for the training and certification of educational professionals who work with academically underprepared students on college campuses. Each year, 45 individuals participate in a summer training program, followed by a semester's practicum in which participants implement new techniques on their home campuses.

Severs and Haines-Stephan were awarded certification as a result of their participation in the training program and completion of an implementation project at MVCC, which also implemented best practices for student success that other institutions may find useful. Severs received her master's degree from the University of Maine-Orono. Haines-Stephan is currently completing his master's degree at Utica College.

MVCC is proud to have sponsored these two outstanding faculty members for the Kellogg experience through its commitment to professional development and to students who arrive at the college with developmental education needs.

Honoring Employees for Years of Service

Marcia Bramhall started with MVCC as a part-time employee and found the work environment very enjoyable. Because of this, she had no problem becoming full-time when the opportunity was offered to her. Since joining the College on July 1, 1987, Marcia has played a very important role at Auxiliary Services Corporation. Marcia is the first person that the student, faculty, staff or co-worker meets when they come to the ASC Office for information and assistance. Since the questions and help needed could be anything from financial aid to dropping or adding a class, she has become very knowledgeable about many of the procedures and operations all over campus, making her a valuable part of the college's operation. She always goes out of her way in attempting to resolve the issue at hand or getting the information needed for the customer she is helping.

If Marcia is in the area there is usually chit chat and laughter going on. All who know Marcia will tell you she is a pleasure to work with. Marcia was honored this week for 25 years of service with a ceremony in ASC.

Broadhurst to serve on SUNY athletics panel

At the College, Gary Broadhurst wears many hats from overseeing the physical education department to 22 athletic programs. The Associate Dean of Athletics and Physical Education is now wearing one more hat has he was nominated to serve on a SUNY-wide Athletics Oversight Committee.

Broadhurst

He will be one of fourteen members of the committee, which will be working to strengthen the intercollegiate athletic experience, examining current system-wide policies and procedures and determining necessary changes. The committee's recommendations will ensure institutional control, program integrity, along with NJCAA and NCAA compliance in a variety of areas including but not limited to admissions, academic standards, financial aid, and academic progress.

"Indeed, we are fortunate to have Gary representing us on this committee," said Terry Schwaner, Dean of the Center for Life and Health Sciences. "It is a recognition of his vast experience, even temperament, and dedication to his specialty."

Submit information for Communitas to rhaubert@mvcc.edu

Athlete of the Week

The Hawks cross country team is on the move once again with some of the top area runners competing for MVCC this fall. Heading the pack for the Hawks at the SUNY Cobleskill Cross Country Invitational was Tom Arcuri. Following his performance, he was named MVCC's Athlete of the Week for the week ending September 9. Arcuri was the first junior college runner to cross the finish line, earning him championship honor in the junior college category. Arcuri is a sophomore Liberal Arts major who graduated from Sauquoit High School.

Arcuri

Students celebrate Third Annual Welcome Week

Students, faculty and staff enjoyed a fun week of activities to get them excited about starting the fall semester here at MVCC.

There were various activities throughout the week on the Utica and Rome Campuses; the Student Congress BBQ, Club & Services Day, Learning Center Soiree, and Library Café to name a few.

The week came to an end on a beautiful day in the quad with battles of laser tag, mechanical bull riding, temporary tattoos and a photo booth while rockin' to a live broadcast from S-Dot and Kiss FM. Carnival food provided by SODEXO.

Everyone had a great time. Now hit the books!

Philosophies of Democratic and Republican parties to be debated

In celebration of Constitution Day, Mohawk Valley Community College will host an informative session on the differences between the philosophy of the two parties; Republican and Democratic.

William Zogby, Associate Professor of history and geography at MVCC, will offer the conservative view, and Jody Hicks, Instructor of political science and social sciences at MVCC, will offer the liberal view in relationship to the political process.

The event will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m. in the Schafer Theater on the Utica campus. This event is free and open to the public. Members of the media are also invited to attend.

Did You Know!

For Fall 2012 there are 978 courses taught on the Utica Campus, with 4,982 students? Or that the Rome Campus has 203 courses with 1,268 students?

New Faces @ MVCC

Karen Scott, of Clinton, has been appointed to the position of Coordinator for Corporate Training in the Center for Corporate and Community Education at Mohawk Valley Community College.

Scott

She will act as a liaison for providing education, training, retraining and consulting services between MVCC and businesses in the Mohawk Valley. Services include customized training as well as credit bearing courses.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Professional and Technical Communication from the State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome.

Fall Luncheon Series back at Rome Campus

There is a lot cooking on the Rome Campus as the Hospitality Management Program heats up its annual Fall Luncheon Series menu. There are three Fall Luncheons scheduled with each featuring a different menu theme.

The luncheons are designed to give MVCC's culinary arts students a creative outlet for their classroom work. The themes, menus, recipes and food production are the endeavors of the Banquet and Catering class, Dining Room Service class, and the Baking class. Students will be creating food to delight the palate and an ambiance to soothe the spirits.

- The first luncheon will be held Wednesday, September 19, featuring a Farm to Table theme.
- The second luncheon will be held Wednesday, October 31, featuring a Trip to the Islands theme.
- The third luncheon will be held Wednesday, November 28, featuring a Modernist Cuisine theme.

The cost for each of these luncheons, which include several courses, is $15 per person and reservations are required. Seating begins at noon for each luncheon.

For more information or to make a reservation, contact the Hospitality Management Program at 334-7702.

Administrative Assistant students visit local bank

The Bank of New York Mellon in Oriskany hosted 21 Administrative Assistant students on a field trip on Wednesday, September 12. The Bank of New York Mellon has offices in 36 countries and over 100 markets in the world.

Clara Heller, a recruiter at the Bank of New York Mellon for 15 years, spoke to the group about taking a job, going above and beyond to open other doors and career opportunities. Heller has been in the Human Resources Department of the bank for six years and holds an Associate's Degree in Business Administration.

Lisa Calenzo, a senior Administrative Assistant for a division manager for the past 13 years, talked to the students how she began as a secretary typing forms on a typewriter. She covered some of the soft skills needed (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) in order to advance in the marketplace. She went on to discuss the use web-based applications, web conferences, and video conferences as forms of communication within the banking industry.

"They have an excellent learning department," said Rosemary Fuoco, an Assistant Professor in the Center for Social Sciences, Business and Information Sciences. "They talked about the importance of classroom education and online education in order to learn what the business is all about."

Calenzo, who works with three other Administrative Assistants, manages her supervisor's schedule and calendar while wearing many hats. One of those hats is being a travel agent and photographer at Bank of New York Mellon. Responsibilities are shifted among the four Administrative Assistants.

A student asked how to you know what to do first? She said, "Prioritize your work. Have a calendar and make lists while doing what the Senior Manager wants first, and then go from there. Organization is very important."

They talked to the students about completing a candidate profile when applying for a job at the bank and then set up an alert to be notified when opportunities are posted that match geographic preference, interests and skills.

Michael I. Schafer Theater dedication

It was a packed house as the Dr. Michael I. Schafer Theater was dedicated in honor of the President Emeritus during a ceremony in the Information Technology Building. Dr. Schafer was the MVCC President from 1983-2005 and is credited with expanding the footprint from 370,000 square feet to 610,000 square feet with the addition of the Plumley Complex in Rome, the Jorgensen Athletic/Event Center, the Science and Technology Building, as well as the IT Building featuring art galleries and the theater. Under his tenure, the academic programs were modified to meet the ever-changing environment of Central New York with Chemical Dependency, Public Policy, and dozens of other degrees.