

# Paul Gallagher brings wealth of knowledge to Human Resources

In order to build the college's human resources capacity, the Office of Human Resources has added Paul Gallagher as



Gallagher

its Director of Employee Relations. Gallagher has extensive experience working in both union and non-union environments while representing both administration and employees.

"My experience has been that organizations run much more

smoothly when we bring people together on common values. I try to do that in my work," says Gallagher, who is a resident of New Hartford with his wife Maritza and daughter Briana. "My experience as a former union representative for public sector employees, with Local 500 SEU for secondary school workers, encourages a balanced perspective."

Gallagher comes to MVCC from Orion Bus Industries where he worked in human resources. He has deep roots in the Mohawk Valley having also worked for Remington Arms and AmeriCU. "I care very much about the College's mission to serve our community and students and have a desire to meet it. I value how employees' opinions, efforts, and contributions they bring to the College, regardless of position or capacity, support that" says Gallagher.

Gallagher hit the ground running when he started in December by meeting with leaders of various levels within the organization. He is working his way throughout the College to meet all the employees. He has already held sit-down meetings with union leadership to open lines of communications.

"I'm very receptive to employees who have concerns and suggestions for improvement," he added. "I initially tried to talk to as many people as I could from the College leadership including members of management and the unions. I wanted to get the perspective of what works at the College, identify opportunities for improvement and what in particular people need from me in this role."

His previous roles as an administration labor relations officer and union business agent have taught him the value of

genuinely listening to different points of view and trying to help people come to resolutions all can live with.

"I've focused on being a mediator rather than advocate," says Gallagher. "I found that, regardless of different perspectives, there are a lot of people here who care very much about the College and student success. There is great opportunity and willingness to improve upon the success so many caring people have already built. I'm very encouraged by our people and possibilities."

As the Director of Employee Relations, Gallagher's goal is to develop a strong relationship with all employees and help build bridges wherever there is need or willingness for them. He is steadily learning how the procedures and systems work at MVCC will support this effort.

"In addition to building relationships and improving lines of communication, I try to master procedures and systems with an underlying purpose of finding more beneficial ways to serve our people and our goal of student success," added Gallagher.

## Hawk nominations laud faculty successes

The Pride of the Hawk and the Heart of the Hawk awards will be presented at the February 4 College Senate meeting. Leading up to the event, there is an opportunity to recognize nominees who will still be considered for future awards, such as Lindsey Geary and Brandon Shaw. Colleagues' comments in their Heart of the Hawk award nomination included: "As they went into a very successful 19-day field trip to the Southwest. ... [their] resourcefulness and refusal to abandon hope got this going." "The presentations [their students] gave when they returned, made evident how much [they] learned and also [how much] of which they might be capable!" "Together, they have earned far more than ... the most enthusiastic MVCC [appreciation]!"

Also nominated was Alex Piejko. According to one nominator, "Alex continually surprises me with his hard work and dedication. He uses his classes to partner with local organizations to benefit the community.... I admire his passion for keeping his students involved, productive, and feeling welcome."

Others nominated for Heart of the Hawk were Tom Schink, about whom one nominator wrote, "I've known and worked with Tom for years. [In college] he received an award for working in both Math and Theater and he excelled in them both ... I know [Tom's] work ethic and that will never change!"

Another nominee was Dick Thomas, about whom a student commented, "Professor Thomas is an exceptional, veteran teacher. ... He motivates his students and is a terrific resource for new faculty and adjuncts. ... Professor Thomas is a gifted teacher who provides his advice in a nurturing, unassuming manner."

## Honoring Employees for Years of Service

From the very beginning, Robert Christman's colleagues knew he was going to be a perfect fit at MVCC. For 10 years, he has not disappointed his co-workers or his students.

"Robert is one of those people who is who he is and he doesn't make a big deal out of the things he does in life," says Professor Sarah Coleman, Ph.D. "He is unassuming and accepts everyone for who they are."

Dr. Coleman was on the search committee for Dr. Christman, who holds a Doctorate of Psychology. Among his professional skills and background that made him stand out was what he said during his telephone interview.

"In the middle of his interview, he stopped talking and yells out, 'go to bed Sigmund.' It turned out that he was talking to his dog that he rescued from the Humane Society. It was just so funny," added Dr. Coleman.

A native of Florida and resident of Utica, Dr. Christman uses a combination of humor and theoretical rational which the students are able to grasp and understand the difference concepts being taught. This semester, Dr. Christman is teaching Alcoholism & Substance Abuse, Introduction to General Psychology and Human Sexuality.

Did You Know!

The median GPA for Fall-2012 first-time, matriculated students was 2.47?

engages students by volunteering as the advisor for the GSA, a club for LGBT students and allies. He works with students in the Student Service Center and is an active member of Team MVCC. Sadly, Sigmund has since

When not in class, Dr. Christman

passed away. In October, Dr. Christman rescued Sam from the Stephens Swan Humane Society.



# Let the games begin with intramurals

With the start of a new semester, that means the return of intramural competition. The Recreation and Leisure Office has been busy over the break organizing this spring's events.

"I am hoping to see more of you get involved with intramurals this semester. I have calendar of events, the roster sheet, and the free agent sheet finalized," said Michelle Kelly, Coordinator of Recreation & Leisure Services. "If you are interested in participating, please fill out these forms and send them to me by the deadline."

Slated for this spring is a Racquetball League which will be held each Monday and Wednesday from February 4 – March 13.

There is also going to be a Wally Ball League running each Tuesday and Thursday from February 5 – March 14. League competition is held from 4-6 p.m.

For one-day tournaments, there will be a 3-on-3 basketball competition on February 7, and the Shamrock Shuffle – where competitors guess the time it will take to complete the race – on March 7. There will also be a co-ed volleyball tournament on March 28.

All intramural competitions are open to faculty, staff and students. Teams can be a combination of all three groups.

Forms are available by contact Kelly at mkelly@mvcc.edu or by calling 792.5425.



# MVCC joins area hospitals to provide radiologic technology education

MVCC has entered into a partnership with Faxton St. Luke's Healthcare to meet the region's radiology education needs starting in the fall with St. Elizabeth Medical Center will join the partnership in the fall of 2014.

The partnership is in response to changing American Registry of Radiologic Technologists mandates, which require entry level practitioners to hold an associate degree starting in 2015.

"All three partners share a tradition of excellence in allied health education, and we all have a track record of adapting to community needs," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. "Graduates will be ready to help local health care providers meet their imaging needs."

This will result in an expanded allied health offering at the College, producing up to 24 trained radiology technologists annually. MVCC's 64-credit hour program features courses specific to radiography, such as Anatomy and Physiology and Radiation Protection and Exposure. The on-site training will be held at both hospitals.

Graduates of the program will hold MVCC associate of science degrees with credits transferable to four-year institutions. To earn radiology diplomas and ARRT's professional certification, graduates will additionally complete 3,000 hours of practical instruction in New York State-certified training laboratories at with Faxton-St. Luke's and St. Elizabeth.

"This partnership will ease students' path from college to



career," said MVCC Dean of Life and Health Sciences Terry Schwaner. "They will be able to leverage MVCC's instructional resources and our partners' facilities, doing all the required work in the classroom and clinical settings without having to transfer between institutions."

Both hospitals are in the process of notifying current and prospective students of the transition. Students will be required to meet prerequisites, placement testing, and other requirements established by the college.

# MVCC's cadaver lab helps Penn State grad students better understand human physiology

Among the many attributes MVCC can be proud of, the cadaver lab is a shining beacon of what commitment and dedication will produce in the academic world. These forms of exemplary facilities don't go unnoticed by other institutions, with MVCC being held as the gold standard.

Evidence of this is that for the fourth consecutive year, Penn State University anatomy and physiology students have traveled from State College, Pa., for a hands-on opportunity with MVCC's four cadavers.

"I have been focusing on the skull and the cranial nerves in



order for me to be better prepared to teach this to the students I work with," said Matt Rodini, who is in his final semester for his bachelor's degree.

Over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, 21 graduate and undergraduate A&P stu-

dents were afford an opportunity to have hands-on experience of the human anatomy. These students are all teaching assistants (TA) with many like Rodini heading to medical school.



"This makes us so much more prepared. It allows us to see first-hand how the organs are uniquely different from one body to the other," said Rodini. The Penn State students visit MVCC because Penn State University does not have a cadaver lab for its A&P students.

"This is a chance for our TAs to learn even more about the human anatomy," said John Waters, Ph.D., who made the fivehour trip with the students. "We do cat dissections, but having access to human specimens is a great experience.

This opportunity came about through the work of William F. Perrotti, Professor of Biology at MVCC.

## Message from the President's Desk

Greetings,

The new semester is off to a solid start, so I want to share the following updates with you for your information.

### Budget

The 2013-14 budget development process is underway. Budget request materials have been sent to all budget managers with the following timeline:

March 8 – budget requests due to appropriate Vice President March 29 – 1st draft of budget request developed and compared to emerging revenue projections

April 30 – Interdepartmental requests, equipment, and departmental budgets finalized

May 20 – Final proposed budget considered by MVCC Board of Trustees

June/July – Trustees approved budget submitted to County Executive, Committees, and Legislature

August – Sponsor approved budget submitted to SUNY September 1 – New adopted budgeted implemented

VanWagoner

### **Innovation Fund**

With the budget development process underway, we are fortunate to have the support of the MVCC Foundation and the Auxiliary Services Corporation who are joining forces to provide a \$25,000 innovation fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide mini-grants for faculty and staff who want to address critical issues by pursuing creative ideas that might not otherwise be funded through the normal budget process. Proposals should be \$5,000

or less requesting one-time seed money or enhancements for creative approaches to improve programs and services at the College. The Grants Council will consider applications between now and April 1st to be considered for a May 1st award. For more information, please visit the Grants Council webpage - www.mvcc.edu/college-senate/councils/grants-council.

### **Idea Box**

After several conversations with various staff members, I'm pleased to introduce an online suggestion box. The "IDEA BOX" is an electronic means to submit ideas to improve the MVCC experience for students and the work environment for faculty and staff. Ideas submitted through this process will be facilitated to a resolution (e.g., either we can or cannot do this; if not now then maybe later, etc.) and the individual who submitted the idea will receive follow up communication regarding the status and/or closure of the suggestion. To submit your idea, click on the following link - www2.mvcc.edu/forms/facultystaff/idea/.

## **Public Safety Update**

The consultant has completed his interviews and assessment and I anticipate his final report in the next week or two. I will likely have more to report next month regarding any consideration of changes to our public safety department and resources – including consideration of any process to explore whether or not to arm our Senior Campus Safety (Peace) Officers.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me directly.

Thanks,

Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D., President

Submit information for Communitas to rhaubert@mvcc.edu

## **New Faces @ MVCC**

Frank C. Druse, III, joins the College's faculty this spring in the Center for Health and Life Sciences.



Druse

Originally from of Port Chester, Druse will be teaching nursing classes.

He holds Master degrees in
Nursing and Healthcare Administration,
along with earning a Bachelor of Science in
Nursing from the University of Phoenix. An
alumnus of MVCC, he earned an A.A.S. in
Nursing from the College.

He also holds dual board certification in pediatric and adult emergency nursing.

Druse's previous work experience includes several positions in the nursing field including time as a Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination Examiner at Excelsior College, Transplant Coordinator for the New York Organ Donor Network, assistant nurse manager at Lenox Hill Hospital, and most recently nurse supervisor at Nyack Hospital.

## MV hosts flu shot clinic

With the Oneida County Health Department continuing to track the rising number of flu cases this winter, MVCC's Health Office is targeting the students, faculty and staff by holding a flu shot clinic on the Utica Campus on Wednesday, February 6, from 1-3:30 p.m.



The staff of the Health Office will also be providing shots for DTaP - diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping Cough). The Health Office will take both appointments and walk-ins. The cost for the flu shot is \$25 and health insurance is accepted.

## Hawks remain undefeated

The women's basketball team continues to run past the competition and entered the week with a No. 2 ranking nationally. The Hawks were 16-0 heading into this week and were 1-1 in games during the week, suffering their first loss to a Division I team.

The men's team improved to 11-6 after taking two out of three contests. The Hawks defeated Columbia-Greene CC and Queensborough CC with a loss to SUNY Delhi in between.

For indoor track and field at St. Lawrence University, Tim Stewart cleared six feet in the high jump to qualify him for Indoor Track Regionals and Outdoor Track Nationals. Carlin Chruscicki won her second invitational in a row in the weight throw. Abbey Clark met the qualifying standards for Indoor Track Regionals with a weight throw of 32 feet, 5½ inches. Other Regional qualifiers included; Sara Rifendifer (1000), Chelsea Huyck (1000), Brittany Englert (5k) Andrea Szewcyk (mile) and Tom Arcuri (5k, 3k). The Hawks travel to Hamilton College on Saturday, January 26.

The women's bowling team won the Hawk Invitational Tournament for the second consecutive year. The defending National Champs were led by Brittany Macrina and Kiamesha Philhower who won the doubles competition with a combined eight-game score of 1,610. Macrina was also the All-Events Champion with an eight-game combined score of 1,687.