



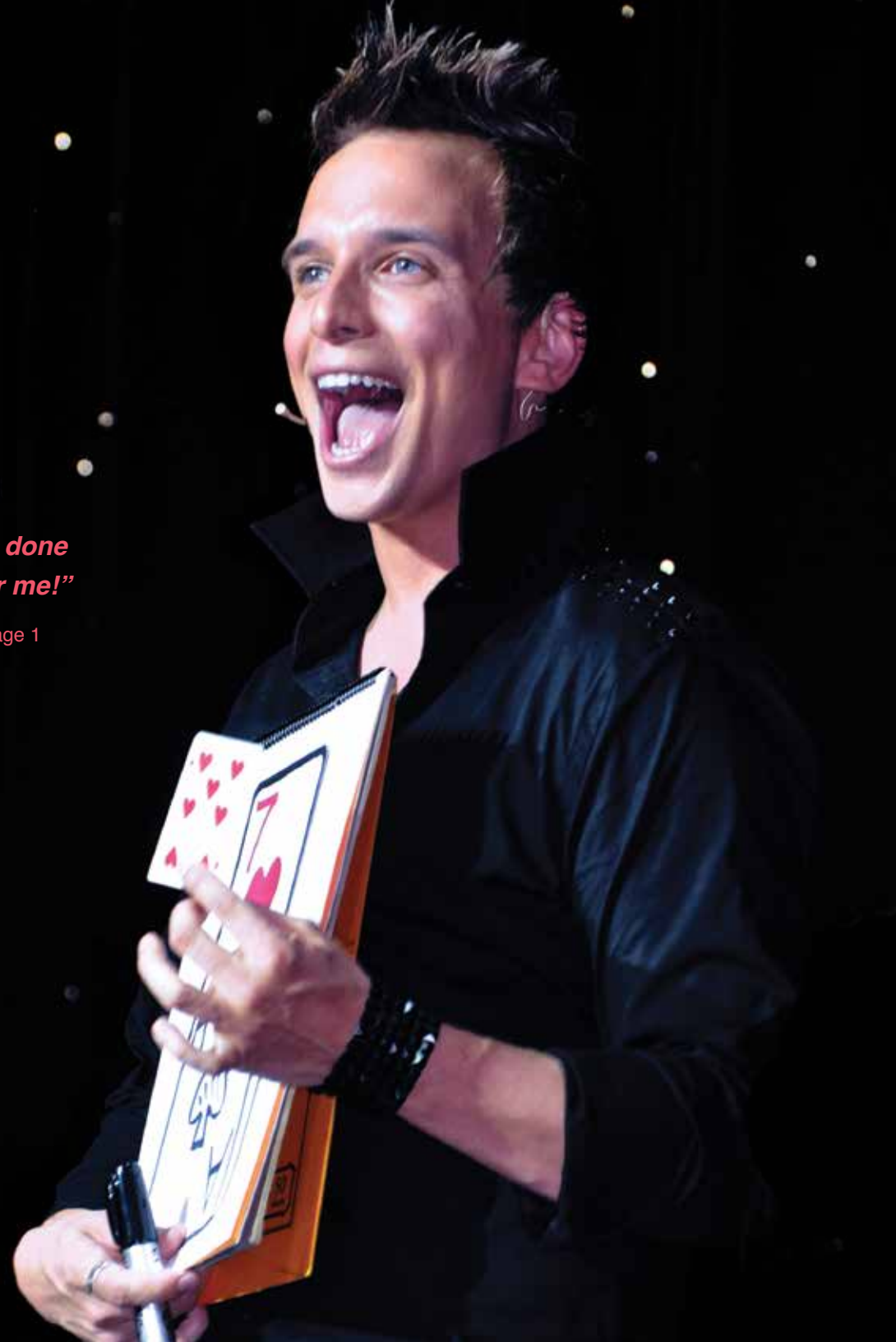
Mohawk Valley Community College

Alumni Newsletter

FALL 2013 | VOLUME 22 | ISSUE 1

*"MVCC has done
so much for me!"*

Leon Etienne, page 1



President's MESSAGE

As the years pass, I am continually in awe of the accomplishments of MVCC graduates. Their diverse stories continue to amaze and inspire me. Who knew that a marketing major from West Utica would go on to make a profession out of performing magic and illusions, most notably on the national stage of a television talent show? Or that working at the College's student radio station WRMT would spark a 30-year radio career for one alum?

You will find their stories and more within these pages. You will read about an MVCC professor – herself an MVCC alumna – who brings her students across the country to study the geology of the West. You will see where some of our baseball-playing alumni are now. You will read a tribute to a true Hawk – one of MVCC's most beloved coaches, Bob Jorgensen, who inspired generations of student-athletes at MVCC, right up until his death this past summer.

You also will read about the College's efforts to help promote entrepreneurship in the Mohawk Valley, aiming to encourage our students to either stay in the area or return to their roots to cultivate a culture of growth and creativity in a region that needs them.

As you read these stories, you will note that MVCC alumni find success through different paths. Some paths are quite direct while others are more winding, with obstacles to be overcome. But no matter how they get there, all MVCC alumni have important things in common: the quality education that built the foundation of their college experience or sparked a new career, or the professor or advisor who lent an ear or shoulder when times got tough.

Every student follows a different path, and MVCC is equipped to help every student find their way. But no matter how they get there, one thing remains the same: MVCC is an important stop for all of our students on their journey to success, and we love hearing their stories. Please don't hesitate to tell us yours.



Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.
President, Mohawk Valley Community College



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ETIENNE '04 WORKS HIS MAGIC ON NATIONAL TELEVISION



Photo courtesy of NBC

Illusionist Leon Etienne '04 has come a long way from his first “big theater” performance on stage at Mohawk Valley Community College.

“I was 19 or 20,” says the now nationally known illusionist, who recently finished a stint on “America’s Got Talent,” the hit TV talent show on NBC. “It was very intimidating because that was a big venue – a state-of-the-art facility right in my back yard. What a great opportunity for a kid to perform in a venue like that.”

Now that kid from West Utica – with assistant Romy Low – has performed in front of more than 10 million television viewers and some of the most persnickety critics in the business – Howard Stern, Heidi Klum, Howie Mandel, and Mel B. It has been a tumultuous ride, but Etienne seems to be enjoying his newfound fame and new opportunities.

“It still hasn’t sunk in,” he says. “Television is this beautiful, terrifying machine. We were thrown into this forum, where it’s really unlike any other performance we’ll ever do.”

For Etienne and Low, the journey began when they auditioned for “America’s Got Talent” in April. It was a different type of performance for the duo, who make a living by per-

forming their acclaimed illusion show at resorts and casinos, as well as on cruise ships and stages across the globe.

“In our industry, you don’t perform to be judged,” Etienne says. “For us, it was weird to be standing there, waiting to be critiqued by these very influential people.”

But the judges liked what they saw. Etienne and Low got a standing ovation and moved on to the Vegas Round, where the duo would compete against 83 other acts, including four other magic acts.

“When that aired, we started getting calls from all over,” he says. “I knew then that this show really had the potential to change our lives.”

During the Vegas Round, Etienne created the illusion that Low was levitating on top of a metal pole. The judges sent them to the Quarterfinals, where they performed an illusion from the back, as if the audience was on the opposite side of the stage. Stern “buzzed” the act, and the duo didn’t receive enough votes to move on to the Semifinals, so they were eliminated – for a bit.

Etienne’s fans barraged the judges with tweets and Facebook messages begging them to bring Etienne back. Stern chose the duo as his “Wild Card” pick for the Semifinals, so Etienne and Low returned to Radio City Music Hall for the Semifinals, where they pulled out all the stops. Unfortunately, the pair didn’t receive enough votes, and they were eliminated from the competition a final time.

“You take a huge risk on national TV,” Etienne says. “For us, the real test is on YouTube. Our final performance has more likes and thumbs-up, which means America loved the routine. It wasn’t Howard’s cup of tea, but that’s the risk you take.”

Etienne knows that his newfound fame might change some of his plans, but he’s taking it all in stride.

“We’re thrilled to have the exposure we’ve had, and it definitely will keep us busy for years to come,” he says. And while being busy is good, it may cut in to some of the local performances and community outreach, such as the summer magic camps at MVCC, that Etienne has enjoyed doing for years.

“I love teaching kids, it’s so rewarding,” Etienne says. “And if we are in town, I’d love to do the kids’ magic camps again.” Etienne still feels a special connection to his hometown, and

that is something he doesn’t see changing.

“My family home is still the Mohawk Valley,” he says. “I might not be able to get there as often, but it will always be home.”

Raised in West Utica, Etienne began performing when he was 12, mostly at birthday parties. He also worked at Babe’s Macaroni Grill and Bar in Utica doing table-side magic for diners. At MVCC, he majored in media marketing and management, graduating in 2004. He then went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in business from Utica College.

Etienne chose MVCC for the same reasons many others do: It’s affordable, local, and the credits transfer anywhere.

“I liked that I was able to save money and get the same credit for classes I could have taken at another school,” he says. “What really was awesome was that I not only learned about business, but I also got to be a work study in the theater, where I learned about stagecraft and show business. Knowing about business is important, but to make it work you need the knowledge of putting on a show, too.”

He adds that it is the people he met at MVCC that really made a difference.

“MVCC has done so much for me,” he says. “It has been a huge part of my life, even after I graduated. Some of my favorite people in the industry work at MVCC. My favorite professor was Richard Lamasney. I hadn’t heard from him in years, but I heard from him when I was on TV.”

Etienne credits these people and MVCC with supporting him and helping him get to the place he is today.

“There were times I wasn’t sure I would be able to sustain my living as a performer,” he says. “But MVCC hired me year after year to do magic camps and other performances. I always felt like the people at the college really believed in me. I’ve been lucky that I’ve never had another job other than magic.”

And it’s a job he’s good at. He may not know exactly what the future holds, but Etienne is ready for just about anything.

“Right now, anything is possible,” he says. “This is a huge opportunity; it’s our 15 minutes. We have to take this and run with it – and do the best we can.”

Catch his Magic Rocks! show on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Stanley Theatre in Utica. Call 315.724.4000.



A TRIBUTE TO COACH BOB JORGENSEN

On Aug. 6, 2013, Mohawk Valley Community College lost one of its biggest fans and influences, Robert R. Jorgensen.

Jorgensen, 80, is known as the “founding father of Hawk Athletics.” He came to MVCC in 1960, and soon was named Department Head of Physical Education and Director of Athletics. Under his leadership, the athletic program grew from five sports to 21, and he had a tremendous impact on his colleagues, as well as the many student lives he touched.

Mike Briggs '63 is one of those students forever changed by Jorgensen, having played intercollegiate baseball with Jorgensen as his coach. Through his personal philanthropy and advocacy on behalf of MVCC, Briggs catalyzed some of the key private-sector donations that helped elevate the concept of the Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic and Event Center into the showpiece athletic practice and performance center for the MVCC students of today. It was Briggs' suggestion that the Center be named in honor of Jorgensen.



“During my two years at MVCC it was easy to see Coach was something special, not for what he taught me about playing baseball, but how you conduct yourself as a person,” Briggs said. “After graduation I began a long career with UPS and I traveled all over the country and lost touch with Coach. After I retired, Fritz Barnes helped me reconnect with Coach and MVCC. I was amazed, but not surprised at what the school had become and the size and scope of the athletic department. Coach was retired by then and we reconnected like we never were apart. I know he was touched very deeply at the recognition of having the Athletic & Events Center named in honor of him. He really didn't think what he did was special, he was just being Coach Jorgensen.”

Jorgensen is survived by his wife of 53 years, Valerie; four children, Chris Jorgensen, Lynne Abbott, Mark Jorgensen, and Brian Jorgensen; nine grandchildren; and 10 brothers and sisters.



“Bob was a wonderful teacher, a fine administrator and a true gentleman,” said MVCC President Emeritus Michael Schafer. “Along with so many others I will miss him.”

Upon learning of Jorgensen's death, MVCC Associate Dean of Athletics Gary Broadhurst sent this message of tribute:

It is with the heaviest of hearts that I inform you that Bob Jorgensen has passed from this life. He slipped away early this morning in his sleep. His wife, Val, said he knew it was time and he was at peace. Some of you may know Bob suffered a serious heart attack over 20 years ago. What no one knew at the time, including his family, was the doctors said he would probably only survive another five years due to the heart damage he suffered. That was Bob, he didn't want anyone to worry about him. But true to his dedication, discipline, and sheer willpower he survived over 20 years, proving the doctors wrong.

Bob graduated from SUNY Cortland in 1954 and received his master's from Washington State the following year. He then served four years in the Marine Corps before arriving at MVCC in 1960. During his tenure he coached soccer for 11 years, baseball for six, and golf for 23. In 1963 he was named Department Head of Physical Education and Director of Athletics; positions he held until his retirement in 1991.

While Bob is probably most remembered as the guiding force, visionary leader, and Founding Father of Hawk Athletics, a program that grew from five sports to at the time 21, he was much more than that. He was a teacher, coach, administrator, mentor, leader, and maybe most of all, a friend to many in this institution. In the current vernacular, “if you talk the talk you have to walk the walk.” Bob didn't do too much talking, but he sure did a lot of walking; and when he did, people followed. He never asked anything of anyone that he first wouldn't do himself. Someone once said, “If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.” Well, Coach built that door that allowed thousands of young men and women to experience intercollegiate athletics that may have never have occurred without his sacrifices and efforts.



Bob epitomized every possible definition of the word gentleman and lived his life with honor. He understood “What Will Matter,” a poem by Michael Josephson:

Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end. There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days. All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else. Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance. It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed. Your grudges, resentments, frustrations and jealousies will finally disappear. So too your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire. The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away. It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end. It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.



The College has appropriately dedicated this facility in Bob's name. To give you some perspective of who the man is allow me to tell you the story of when Bob was informed of this honor. Then-College President, Michael Schafer, gathered a few of us together for lunch and told Bob what we wanted to do. Bob was literally so stunned he could not speak. I remember walking out to the parking lot with him afterward and he was still in disbelief. The following day his wife, Valerie, called to ask me what happened, what was said, because Bob couldn't really recall what had occurred. Can you imagine, this man, who is so deserving of this honor, who had done so much for so many, didn't know what to say. I told Coach, that's OK, because as Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “What you are thunders so loudly, we can't hear a word you're saying.”



Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant. So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured? What will matter is not what you bought but what you built, not what you got but what you gave. What will matter is not your success but your significance. What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught. What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example. What will matter is not your competence but your character. What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone. What will matter is not your memories but the memories that live in those who loved you. What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what. Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. You see, it's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.

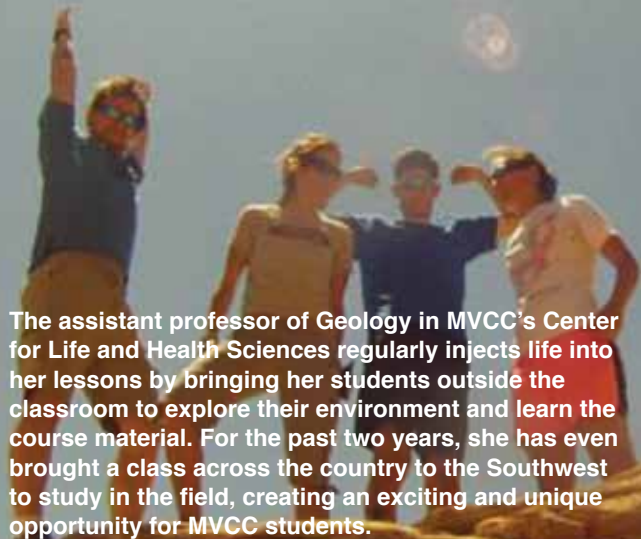


Coach,
Thanks for choosing to live a life that matters and for allowing us to be a part of it. We will never forget you. God Speed.



MVCC GEOLOGY PROFESSOR GEARY '03 FOSTERS STUDENTS' 'AHA' MOMENTS

When Lindsey Geary '03 tells her students to get ready to rock, she really means it



The assistant professor of Geology in MVCC's Center for Life and Health Sciences regularly injects life into her lessons by bringing her students outside the classroom to explore their environment and learn the course material. For the past two years, she has even brought a class across the country to the Southwest to study in the field, creating an exciting and unique opportunity for MVCC students.

"Geology can be difficult because you have to be able to think three-dimensionally in very large and very small scales," Geary says. "So discussing a topic in a lecture is different than bringing students into the field – it makes the concepts tangible and you see things click for them."

The trip out West came to Geary in a brainstorm as she remembered going on field trips each semester while completing her four-year degree.



But getting them into the field meant exploring beyond local rocks.

"Unfortunately, New York State geology is very difficult to understand," Geary says. "It's not entry-level geology concepts. So I came up with the idea to take them out west ... the mountains are younger and the rock formations are easier to learn about."

Student preparation is a very important component to the class. Students are required to take personal fitness, a class that was redesigned by Geary and MVCC Fitness Center and Wellness Coordinator Andrea Roberts to help them build physical fitness to augment the type of activities they would be doing in the field.

"A lot of climbing, hiking, team-building and things of that nature," Geary says. "I also have them do background research on the field sites so they are informed of the geology. This way, they know what to expect, and they get to know each other prior to being out west. I educate them on the dangers, like heat, altitude sickness, the types of animals and cactus we will encounter, and what to be aware of. I also give them a list of gear items they must have for the trip."

Geary says it has been a great experience for students.

"They're very excited to be away from home and in the Rockies," she says. "The trip plays a role in their academic decisions because the students who go on the trip have curiosity about the science, and more times than not, it sparks their interest."

Geary says her students return from the trip with a new passion for geology, and she loves to witness the "aha" moments.

"It happens all the time," she says. "Every single field site we go to, most of the students – as a cohesive group or individually – have those moments. One example, at the Florissant Fossil Beds, one of the girls stopped mid-hike, looked around and said, 'I just can't believe that 40 million years ago, I would be standing at the base of a lake.' Or the Mesa Verde, identifying Paleoinidian lifestyles and how they used the geology of the landscape and their environment to their advantage. Putting their fingers in a billion year time gap and going, 'Wow – there's a billion years of earth history missing here.'"

Geary's own personal interest in geology began at a young age.

"I've always loved rocks," she says. "My dad said when I was little, we'd go for walks and he would come home with pockets full of rocks, because I would pick them up and ask him to hold onto them so I could collect more."



As a high school student, Geary decided she wanted to be a marine biologist, so she went to Long Island University for a week's study in marine science. But even while collecting samples from the ocean, Geary was paying more attention to the rocks and shells that were brought up on the boat than the animals and fish that were collected.

"The professor noticed where my attention was drawn, and asked if I had considered geology. That was a turning point for me. I decided then that rocks and minerals were more interesting to me than plants and animals."

Geary majored in geology at MVCC, and was very inspired by her professors – especially in the sciences – such as Dr. Robert Jubenville, Richard Thomas, and Ronald Janowsky.

She says MVCC prepared her well for her transfer to Florida State University, where she continued to study marine science and geology. "All my credits transferred, I finished all my core classes and math, and I didn't have to sit in stadium seating math classes. My friends in geology at other schools struggled because there were so many students and just one teacher."

She then earned her master's degree in micropaleontology. "I'm a big nerd," she says with a laugh. "I mean, I studied fossilized plankton!"

After she received her master's degree, Geary worked as a hydrogeologist. But tough economic times brought layoffs, and she soon moved back home to the Mohawk Valley.

"I contacted Dr. Jubenville about teaching as an adjunct, and it worked out into a term position," she says. "I never knew how much I would enjoy being in the classroom until I was, and I wouldn't change it for the world. There is nothing more fulfilling when the light bulb goes on for a student and they get it. I can't imagine doing anything else."

"Lindsey's passion for teaching is infectious," says Dr. Terry Schwaner, Dean of the Center for Life and Health Sciences at MVCC. "She infuses enthusiasm with knowledge into active learning, both in the classroom and the field."



When she's not teaching, Geary spends a lot of her time downhill mountain bike racing, something she just started in the past year.

"It's lift service mountain biking and individually timed race runs, and I compete all over the Northeast at various mountain resorts," she says. "I compete in the Eastern States Cup Series – in the beginner category. This is my second full season, and I'm not anywhere near the performance of a pro-rider or an expert. I do it for fun and camaraderie. There aren't many people in the area who do the sport, so I love going to the races to have people to ride with."



Geary has been recognized for her work with W.I.S.E. (Women in Science and Engineering) and the visiting professors from KGCC in Vietnam each semester. In April 2013, Geary received the Heart of the Hawk Award with instructor Brandon Shaw. This award recognizes service and leadership excellence to students, colleagues, and the college by the teaching faculty. In May, she received the Altitude Award, which recognizes outstanding and entrepreneurial achievement within the scope of college operations on the part of an individual faculty or staff member. One of her favorite outreach events has been working with MVCC's Kiddie Campus, where she gave a presentation to the children about volcanoes.





5 QUESTIONS WITH AN ALUM: JERRY KRAUS '76

Jerry Kraus '76 has worn many hats in the Mohawk Valley, including 30 years as an on-air personality ("The Doctor") and promotions director at 96.9 WOUR, and public relations and development director at the Stevens-Swan Humane Society. In June, Kraus was named executive director of The Stanley Center for the Arts, where he had served on the Board of Directors for four years. At the foundation of all of his success is Kraus' time at MVCC, where he earned an Applied Associate of Science degree in Mathematics. After MVCC, Kraus went on to earn a bachelor's degree in applied economics from SUNY Oswego and a master's degree in media administration from Syracuse University.

1. How or why did you choose to attend MVCC?

After graduating from Whitesboro High School, I almost went to Clarkson to study engineering. I had made a few visits there and was up in the air as far as my career path. I decided to get some college math classes under my belt at MVCC to see if that was a curriculum I might find challenging and enjoyable. I also had a part-time job, and many of my friends and my twin brother were also heading to MVCC, so it was a pretty easy choice for me in the end.

2. How did your time at MVCC help you to pursue your goals?

Getting outside of my high school circle of friends and meeting new people and attending on-campus and off-campus events really opened my eyes to the opportunity to enjoy college. The more I got involved with class projects and campus activities, and spoke with my mentors (like Don Willner and Larry Trivieri), I realized it was a big world out there and I wanted to go see some more of it. I knew I was going on with future studies in business, so a background in math from MVCC was a great foundation for success.

3. What are your most memorable moments as an MVCC student?

Being accepted into "Who's Who in Junior College," getting good grades and helping my friend's band KIDD as they played clubs all over Central New York, while I was juggling a part-time work schedule. (A few band members were MVCC students as well.) These were my early experiences with time management.

4. Can you talk about a time when an MVCC professor or advisor helped you through a difficult time?

Don Willner of the math department always was there for a friendly chat, and not just for school-related issues. We covered school topics, life's opportunities, and we discussed my next stop at SUNY Oswego and life outside of college. He was a very good advisor and friend.

5. What is your advice to current MVCC students?

Get as much experience as you can without neglecting your studies. Internships open up a whole new view of what's out there in the "real world," and one can make excellent contacts. Also, don't lock into a major too early if you're not committed. Join a club or organization at MVCC. Make sure you see what else is happening and appealing on campus. Hey, you never know what you might get involved with and enjoy. I got involved in the MVCC college radio station, and who knew I would end up as a radio professional for 30 years!

SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTES!

The MVCC Alumni Newsletter wants to hear from you! Alumni may submit Class Notes for future issues to Marie Kohl at mkohl@mvcc.edu with "Class Notes" in the subject line. Please include your name, graduation year, and your major, as well as some information about what you've been up to lately. Also remember to keep your contact information up-to-date so that we can stay connected.



REMEMBER WHEN: 1986

Mohawk Valley Community College celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1986. To commemorate this milestone, on Sept. 27 of that year, the college community participated in a torch relay run from the Rome Campus to the Utica Campus. Participants included Rome Mayor Carl Eilenberg; Diane Green, student; Michael Hadity, student; Jeff Whitehead, student; Michael Kerrigan, employee; Regina Piacentino, graduate; Kathy Kelly, graduate; Douglas Peters; Brian Jordan, graduate; Delores Luizzi, employee; Lawrence Luizzi; Ivan Smith, employee; Steven Woods, graduate; Jim Simpson, graduate; William Newman, employee; Richard Meili, employee; Toni McCully; David Mathis, trustee; Robert Ingalls, Oneida County undersheriff; Michael Sewall, employee; Joseph White, employee; John Rybash, employee; Julius Grossman, employee; Angelo Latucca, employee; Thomas Nelson, Utica comptroller; Donald Willner, employee; Edward Kobos, employee; Anthony Spiridigloizzi; Susan Martineau, employee; Thomas Capraro, employee; William Perrotti, employee; Satya Tandon, employee; and Joe Kelly, Utica Observer-Dispatch columnist.

thINCubator

the home for **INNOVATIVE NEW COMPANIES**

MVCC HELPS LAUNCH BUSINESS INCUBATOR IN DOWNTOWN UTICA



MVCC has helped open thINCubator – short for “the home for Innovative New Companies” – a business incubator in downtown Utica, for anyone who is interested in starting a venture or furthering an existing venture.

thINCubator, which is modeled after the successful Syracuse Student Sandbox, provides an experiential learning environment where students create actual businesses in their own dedicated physical environment, supported by teams of community and alumni mentors.

Leading thINCubator is John Liddy, Entrepreneur-in-Residence at MVCC and Syracuse University. Liddy is a nationally recognized expert in using higher education as a

catalyst for local economic development. At thINCubator’s space at 106 Genesee St. in the developing Bagg’s Square west district, Liddy oversees the connection of participating entrepreneurs to expert mentors, venture capitalists, support services, and potential markets for new businesses.

“The sandbox concept of thINCubator is meant to create a hotbed of new business ideas and a network of new connections across the local economy,” Liddy says. “The goals of thINCubator are to increase the likelihood that these businesses will succeed and to establish a stronger ecosystem of entrepreneurs who will help revitalize our economy and put more Mohawk Valley residents to work in rewarding careers.”

Participating entrepreneurs have access to business and entrepreneurship courses taught by MVCC and other institutions, as well as mentorship from experts in business law, information technology, finance, and other relevant fields. They also are privy to such business-friendly startup perks such as Rackspace Web and IT support, and the opportunity to pitch their businesses to a wide-ranging network of potential partners and venture capitalists.

The program aligns with entrepreneurship-boosting goals of the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Corporation and builds on recent wins such as the launch of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, new entrepreneurship degree and certificate programs at MVCC, the establishment of the Quad C at SUNYIT’s campus, Mohawk Valley EDGE’s EDGEcation series, and significant efforts from the private sector to redevelop business-friendly corridors in and around Utica.

For more information on thINCubator, call 315-792-5526.

thINCubator: FEED LOCAL TALENT TO SUSTAIN ITS GROWTH

*By Frank DuRoss
MVCC Executive Director of Institutional Advancement*

MVCC has long been committed to the development of entrepreneurship in the Mohawk Valley. The College has developed degree and certificate programs related to entrepreneurship, and this is the second year the College will host the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) for ages 11-18.

Now, the MVCC Foundation is working with other college partners to grow the thINCubator, an entrepreneurial sandbox located in the fast-growing Bagg’s Square west neighborhood of Downtown Utica that provides a place, programs, and people to help entrepreneurs in creating new businesses. Such services could help our young college graduates make their dreams a reality in the Mohawk Valley.

More than a set of business skills or practices, entrepreneurship is a calling that can be pursued at many levels of experience and achievement. It requires both individual initiative and knowledge, and attention to the needs of others. It is a science and an art; entrepreneurship is a primary way in which a free society grows not only its economy, but its cultural and social networks as well.

The thINCubator will nurture potential entrepreneurs, connecting them with mentors, and helping them move forward to develop a progressive, creative start-up culture that can revive communities as the region draws and keeps young, creative minds and develops new businesses and opportunities.

And we believe they can do it right here, in Utica, N.Y.

HAWKS CONTINUE TO SOAR AFTER MVCC



MVCC's students are the heart of Hawk Athletics, and our Hawks go on to do remarkable things. Many of them use their MVCC experience to excel at transfer institutions or in careers, and many of them continue on their athletic path, playing on teams at the national level or coaching and teaching the next generation of student-athletes.

This summer, former Hawk Patrick Corbin was a major league All-Star pitcher for the Arizona Diamondbacks. Corbin attended MVCC in 2008, where in his one year as an All-Region III pitcher, he finished 4-3 with a 1.87 ERA and 56 strikeouts in 45 innings. At the end of his first year, Corbin accepted a scholarship offer from Chipola College, a Division I junior college in Florida, where he regularly played and practiced in front of scouts. He was the 80th pick in the 2009 major league draft, and the Angels later dealt him to the Diamondbacks in a trade for pitcher Dan Haren.

"Having an opportunity to help Patrick Corbin in his development as an athlete is an experience I will always cherish," says MVCC Baseball Coach Dave Warren. "Not many people can say that they had a chance to coach a Major League Baseball All-Star. It just demonstrates how a young student-athlete can go anywhere from MVCC."

There are many more. Notable athletic alumni hail from various academic programs, span multiple generations and followed different career paths. But one thing they have in common is they are all Hawks who trained with the dedicated and experienced coaches at MVCC. **Here is a sampling of MVCC's athletic baseball program and where they are now:**

- **Kyle Richardson '10:** Graduate of St. Johns University. Plays Independent Baseball and planning to enter medical school this fall.
- **Andy Dickson '10:** Recruiting Coordinator for Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Ind. He is responsible for infield play and base running.
- **Dan Maycock '05:** MVCC Hockey Coach, MVCC Assistant Baseball Coach.
- **Bryan Stamboly '04:** Utica School District Physical Education Teacher and coach.
- **Dan Morgan '06:** Human Resources Specialist at Cryomech (Syracuse).
- **Benjamin Barton '02:** New York State Trooper.

Here is a sampling of MVCC players who have signed to play baseball on the professional level.

- **Jim LaFountain:** 1976 Minnesota Twins
- **Tony Grande:** 1983 Cleveland Indians
- **Rod Hajdasz:** 1987 Milwaukee Brewers
- **Kevin Green:** 1995 Florida Marlins
- **Bob Cook:** 1996 Independent
- **Jeremy Halpin:** 1996 Baltimore Orioles
- **Dan Ninemire:** 1997 Independent
- **Garrett Zyskowski:** 1998 Houston Astros
- **Pete Geddes:** 1998 Independent
- **Dan Maycock:** 2008 Fargo-Moorhead Red Hawks
- **Pat Corbin:** 2009 by LAA Angels
- **Kyle Richardson:** 2013 Independent



Kyle Richardson '10



UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL ALUMNI PHONATHON

By Marie Kohl

MVCC Alumni Relations Coordinator

The MVCC Alumni Association Fall Phonathon is currently under way, and we would like to thank everyone who has "taken the call."

An important component to the Foundation's Annual Fund, the Phonathon is a biannual fundraiser that enables MVCC to raise money for the College's most pressing needs, and to enhance the quality education that MVCC has provided for more than 65 years.

For me, one of the greatest benefits of the Phonathon is that it allows us to involve our students as callers. For many of these students, it is their first job and an opportunity for professional experience. We are grateful to our alumni for their kindness and patience with our student callers, realizing that they are not professional telemarketers, but students at their alma mater.

Over the years, the MVCC Alumni Association Phonathon has grown tremendously. When I first started the Phonathon, we called for just three weeks and had approximately 5,000 alumni phone numbers. Today, we call for 12 weeks and have more than 18,000 alumni phone numbers. A couple of years ago we were given a dedicated room to call from. Thanks to Director of Advancement Frank DuRoss and MVCC President Dr. Randall VanWagoner for supporting our alumni outreach efforts. This year, with their support, we will be utilizing an automated dialing system to reach alumni. We will continue to employ students, but this new system will allow us to reach more alumni.

Again, thank you for taking time out of your schedule to talk with our students.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me, Marie Kohl, at 315.792.5340 or Mkohl@mvcc.edu.

Alumni Association GREETINGS

From Eugene Militello '84
President, MVCC Alumni Association

If you attended May's Commencement ceremony at the Utica Memorial Auditorium, you know of the powerful words shared by 2013 Alumnus of Merit Greg Evans '79. Evans, President of Indium Corp., spoke of the importance of staying connected to Mohawk Valley Community College, and shared suggestions of how to maintain that connection for years to come. Many alumni and others in the community have asked for a copy of his speech, so here is a transcript:



Greg Evans: Thank you for this award.

When I think "you," I mean all of you. Because I can't separate MVCC into different categories, like "the buildings," and "the faculty," and "the students," and "the sports," and "the labs." MVCC is the sum total of all these elements working together. So, to everyone here, I thank you.

To further express my gratitude, I want to give something to you. Because I have the gift of years, I am able to give you advice. Here it is:

Maintain your relationship with MVCC after you walk out of this building.

Again, maintain your relationship with MVCC after you walk out of this building.

Why? Because you have a lot more to gain. The benefits

you can derive from this institution don't have to end when you walk out of this building. And because you have a lot to give.

Many people built the program that you just graduated from. Without their input, your program would have been much weaker. You can give back to MVCC by working to enhance your program.

By helping to build your program, your predecessors grew and benefitted. Their lives were enriched by contributing to MVCC. And your life was enriched. Now it's time for you to apply your skill and experience to make MVCC better for those that follow you.

Here are a few ways in which you can maintain your relationship with MVCC after graduation:

1. Go back and speak in the classroom. Your experience and story will make you a very valuable resource to students who are following you.

- Gain just a little experience, then return and speak to one of your classes. Share your experiences with students who are right behind you. Because you are so close to them, they can relate to you strongly.
- Share information about your field, and your experiences, with your professors and advisors. Share the state of the practice, any new developments, current best practices, even trends. You can enhance their insights and make their advice to future students more accurate and valuable.

You gain:

- Fresh insight from students who, increasingly, see the world slightly differently than you.
- A connection to your professors. This can help you with networking, as well as with staying on top of trends in your field.

2. Become an instructor. Combining your education with some practical experience can make you a very valuable instructor.

- Your ability to relate to students, combined with your

knowledge of MVCC, combined with your knowledge of the workplace, becomes a very valuable combination.

- With experience, and the right training, you can return and teach a class.
- We all remember really meaningful instructors in our lives. You have the potential to become that person in other peoples' lives at MVCC.

You gain:

- A deeper connection to professors and the college as a whole.
- Enhanced networking.
- A strong connection to students, who, as you know, are a rich source of information and insight.
- Constantly refreshed information regarding trends, regulations, and practices in your field.

3. Be active in MVCC activities and programs.

- Volunteer to participate in fundraisers.
- Attend sports events.
- Enjoy Cultural Series events.
- Participate in community forums

You gain:

- Entertainment
- A connection to MVCC
- A strengthened sense of community

4. Stay active in continuing education.

- Your ability to relate to students, combined with your knowledge of MVCC, combined with your knowledge of the workplace, becomes a very valuable combination.

You gain:

- Knowledge
- Confidence that you are on the cutting edge of information and practices. This sets you up for advancements in both position and compensation.
- An ever-growing platform for future degrees and accomplishments.
- A chance to be a strongly contributing person in the classroom – helping the professor and your classmates.

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MVCC SEEKS ENTRIES FOR SHOW OF ALUMNI WORK

The MVCC Alumni Association is in the process of planning the 2014 Annual Show of Alumni Work.

This annual art show has been providing the College and community an amazing display of works by our talented alumni since 1983. Categories in both illustration and graphic design have recently included corporate identity marks, brochure and book design, posters, web designs, small paintings, pen and ink drawings and children's book illustration.

A call for entries will be sent out in early January, so all you Advertising Design and Production, Graphic Communication and Illustration alumni take note. Be sure to update your address if it has changed in order to receive the entry postcard. The Show of Alumni Work will take place in early April 2014 and will run through Commencement.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Doug Hydelund '86, Show Chairman, at dhydelund@mvcc.edu, or Marie Kohl '88, Coordinator of Alumni Relations, at mkohl@mvcc.edu.

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Visit us online at

www.mvcc.edu/alumni

or follow "MVCC Alumni Association" on Facebook.

Questions about Mohawk Valley Community College, its services and its programs should be directed to the MVCC Office of Admissions at 315.792.5400. Comments or questions about this publication can be directed to MVCC Marketing and Communications at 315.792.5330.

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