



Foundation

# 2020 YEAR-END SUMMARY & ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. Philip  
Domenico '72



FDA

COVID-19

CREATING STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

REVITALIZING OUR ECONOMY

BREAKING BARRIERS

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

MOHAWK VALLEY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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January 1, 2021

Greetings from the MVCC Foundation!

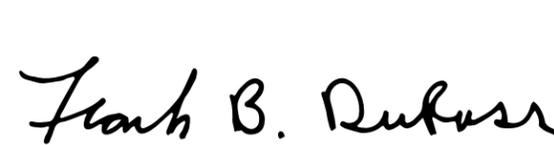
As we begin the new year with a fresh start, we look back in awe at the extraordinary events of 2020. We could never have predicted the incredible changes that the COVID-19 crisis would force across the Mohawk Valley, but when the pandemic hit our community, we immediately responded to the call:

- We achieved the rapid launch of an MVCC CARES campaign that raised \$30,000, with an expected \$30,000 match from the SUNY Impact Foundation, for direct distribution to students facing financial emergencies due to the virus.
- We redesigned our scholarship experience, pushing back deadlines and providing paperwork flexibility to enable as many students as possible to apply despite the lockdowns.
- When longstanding traditions were threatened by the pandemic, we found innovative ways to bring our community together. We redesigned our annual memorial Ted Moore Run/Walk as a virtual event and created an online premiere of the Scholarship Awards Ceremony to celebrate student achievement and donor generosity.
- We've ramped up support of small businesses and entrepreneurs through thINCubator and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), assisting companies in obtaining more than \$9.1 million in emergency funding through loans and grants as well as providing online entrepreneurship programming and other resources.

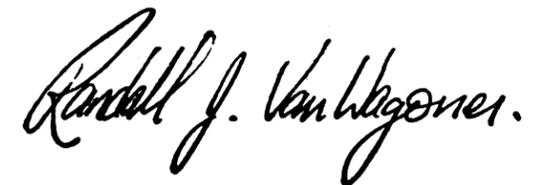
Through these activities and so many more, we've been persistently working to counteract the effects of COVID-19 on our community. At this time last year, we looked forward to a year of opportunity. The devastation of COVID-19 was not what we expected, but as you can see, the community's tremendous need challenged us to touch more lives than we could ever have imagined.

Our activities and events may have looked different, but our impact was bigger than ever before, and we are proud to have risen to the challenge to transform lives. On behalf of the MVCC Foundation, please accept our deepest thanks for the way you have stood in solidarity with us to support our community. Your donations have enabled us to make an incredible impact on countless lives, and we are deeply grateful for that support. The year 2020 has come and gone, but the MVCC Foundation is still here. We're still serving. We're still supporting. We're still fighting for this community. Since 1967, the MVCC Foundation has steadily served the Mohawk Valley, and we are committed to continuing that legacy – no matter what challenges and opportunities the year 2021 may bring.

Sincerely,  
Frank B. DuRoss



Vice President for Community Development, MVCC  
Executive Director, MVCC Foundation, Inc.



Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.  
President, MVCC



# DR. PHILIP DOMENICO '72

It's been 27 years since Rome native Dr. Philip Domenico '72 first made a medical discovery with the potential to save thousands of lives, and this summer, that discovery inched closer to hitting the market for patients with cystic fibrosis and potentially COVID-19.

In the early 1990s, while director of the Infectious Disease Research Laboratory at Winthrop-University Hospital in Long Island (now NYU-Langone),

Domenico created bismuth thiols, novel antimicrobial agents that also inhibit microbial biofilms, clusters of microorganisms that grow as slime on surfaces.

He spent more than 10 years testing, studying, and characterizing their potential. In 2006, the Microbion Corporation took over the research and development. Pravibismane, a purer form of Domenico's bismuth thiols, is now the company's lead therapeutic candidate. It is the first in a new class of anti-infective drugs with great promise

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“MVCC provided an opportunity to get back on my feet and show the world I was college material.”

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against antibiotic-resistant pathogens and the biofilms they produce. It is poised to enter the final phase of clinical trials for diabetic foot ulcers and post-surgical wound infections.

“It's a lesson in patience,” says Domenico, who was inducted into the Rome Science Hall of Fame for his discovery in 2014. “But we've come a long way over the last few years.”

In May 2020, Domenico and Microbion achieved three major milestones in this endeavor. First, NYU-Langone settled a decade-long lawsuit with Microbion, which now names Domenico as co-inventor on all patents. Secondly, the FDA granted Orphan Drug Designation for inhaled delivery of Pravibismane for cystic fibrosis, qualifying the drug for various development incentives. Then, Microbion received a \$17.1 million grant to advance an aerosol form of the drug, which could also greatly impact COVID-19 severity and mortality by hindering bacteria and biofilms, and mitigating inflammation. The funding will enable Microbion to complete preclinical and Phase 1 studies.

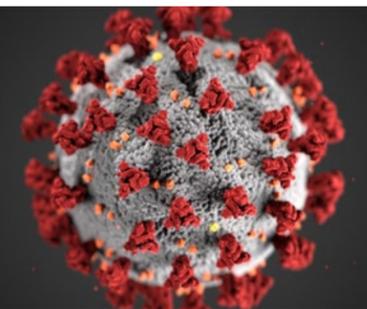
“I'm confident it will be the drug of choice for several medical applications and will eventually be used in many industrial processes, because it does something that no other drug can: it inhibits slime,” Domenico says. Slime is implicated in roughly 80% of all bacterial infections, according to the National Institutes of

Health. It also degrades surfaces. “Being the first and only anti-slime substance, and as potent as other front-line drugs, it could be a multiple home-run hitter.”

Domenico says he struggled with biology as a young student at Rome Free Academy, but came around to the subject as a senior. He graduated from RFA in 1970 and came to MVCC to major in science. “MVCC provided an opportunity to get back on my feet and show the world I was college material.”

He went on to earn two bachelor's degrees in biology and psychology in 1975 from the State University at Albany, then served three years in the U.S. Army as a medical technician at a reference laboratory in Germany, which sparked his career in infectious disease. “My whole life has been a quest for the cure.”

Domenico's interest in slime and its role in disease began around 1980, while he was a graduate student at the University of Texas Health Science Center in



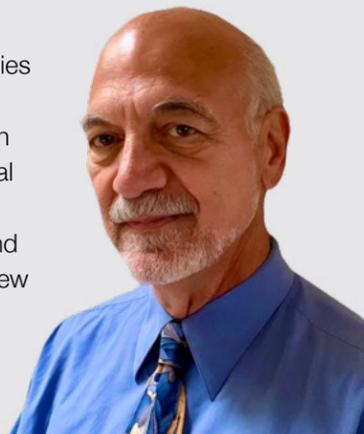


San Antonio. He decided to study a bacterium called *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, a cousin to *E. coli* that he describes as “notably very slimy” and deadly.

“I was curious about all the slime it made,” he says. “At the time, most biologists were fascinated by the new science of molecular biology or the advances in protein chemistry, but few were studying complex carbohydrates, from which biofilm and slime are made.”

But studying slime was more challenging than Domenico had anticipated. “There were few methods to handle the stuff,” he says. “The gooeyness made it near impossible to study. I had to invent a few methods to break it down and measure it. Slime sticks to everything, so it was difficult separating all the components involved.”

His research continued through his doctoral studies at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, his postdoctoral training at Rockefeller University in New York and LSU Medical Center in New Orleans, and into his career. While working in Long Island, Domenico



was testing the effects of different substances on slime production, and found that salicylate (Aspirin) inhibited it by 80% or more, but only at high doses. As he studied related compounds, he found that bismuth subsalicylate (Pepto-Bismol) inhibited more than 90% of slime at achievable doses. Further study showed that bismuth inhibited other processes in bacteria more powerfully when combined with certain thiols. The winning combination, BisEDT — bismuth and ethanedithiol — is roughly 1,000 times more potent than bismuth alone, and has been the focus Domenico’s work since the year 2000.

Working with Domenico, Microbion was able to improve upon BisEDT, and in 2016, this pharmaceutical-grade compound allowed the company to renew the patent on bismuth thiols (Domenico’s original patent had expired). The product — Pravibismane — is now the lead drug candidate in clinical trials.

“It gives me great satisfaction because something I created and nurtured has become larger than life.”

“It gives me great satisfaction because something I created and nurtured has become larger than life,” says Domenico, who retired in 2019. “My existence has been justified.”

### More on Dr. Phil

**Dr. Phil Domenico also has a nutrition blog, which can be found at <https://thescienceofnutrition.me>. He is working on a science-fiction book about a slime pandemic that destroys U.S. crops, which is available to read on his blog.**

## ALUMNA OF MERIT KAREN KOROTZER '89

**For 30 years, Karen Korotzer '89 has been advocating for the rights of people with disabilities to ensure they have the lives they want to live. As CEO of nonprofit agency The Arc, Oneida-Lewis, she remains committed to her calling, working tirelessly to strengthen the support services through innovation, education, and community collaboration.**

“For many years, people still assumed that individuals with developmental disabilities were in institutions, living a very segregated life. Our mission is to change that,” she says. “It’s important to tell our story in a variety of ways, so people know the lives of those we support are meaningful and important to our community.”



Korotzer’s dedication to the Mohawk Valley and her advocacy for education embody the College’s mission of serving students and our community, earning her the MVCC Alumni of Merit Award for 2020.

The Arc, Oneida-Lewis, supports 1,400 people with disabilities and their families across two counties. Korotzer says it’s important for nonprofits to be nimble in order to continue serving the people who need them most, especially in uncertain times.

“We have to ensure that the decisions we’re making are positive for the people we support, while also managing the situation we have in our environment — whether it be funding cuts or the pandemic.”

Fortunately, The Arc was ahead of the curve with remote technologies when the coronavirus pandemic halted in-person support, enabling the agency to continue services without missing a beat, thanks to federal and state grants to develop a telehealth program, distance learning, and videoconferencing across all its sites, Korotzer says. “We were very, very well-prepared — even before COVID — because we had that technology available.”

But Korotzer also took the opportunity to look at the situation from a different perspective. “In the midst of a pandemic or crisis, you certainly pull people together and get through what you need to get through,” she says. “But you also look for opportunities to be more flexible — what can we do differently if things have changed because of COVID or the way we are funded? We have to be ready for anything to ensure continuation of services for the people we support.”

Korotzer was inspired to work in direct care by her great uncle, who was born with cerebral palsy. She chose to major in Human Services at MVCC, which she says prepared her well and helped to shape her future. "Mohawk Valley's instructors were very experienced in the field, so they brought that reality to our education," she says. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in psychology, master of business administration, and master of social work from the University of Albany. She became CEO of The Arc, Oneida-Lewis, in 2011.

**"It's such a great agency. It's all about making sure you have people with the mission in their heart, and working together with the families and the people we support to really make a change."**

Over the past few years, The Arc has expanded its reach and range of services while finding new partners and building new connections for its robust school-to-work program. The Arc currently serves students in every school district in Oneida County, as well as some Lewis County districts and BOCES, Korotzer says. The next step for students is the post-high school CollegeWorks program, a collaboration between The Arc and MVCC that aims to improve employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. Program participants get the experience of attending college while developing marketable skills, and gain work experience through internships at local businesses. The Arc also has an Employment Solutions Team to help graduates find jobs, and is working to expand its Progress Industries program, which employs individuals in packaging and assembling products for local businesses, such as Matt's Brewery.

"These community partnerships and programs have opened a lot of doors for the people we serve," Korotzer says. "They've provided new opportunities for these individuals to find jobs, keep jobs, and to have those relationships where they work — to be able to have the lives that everyone else does."

Korotzer, who considers herself a lifelong student, found herself back on MVCC's campus when she enrolled in Leadership Mohawk Valley's Class of 2019 — the first class housed under the College's Center for Leadership Excellence.

"I loved it," she says. "It was such an eye-opening experience to see the different businesses, to hear the different speakers, to learn from my peers in the class. And of course, I was thrilled that we were the first class to go through LMV at MVCC. It really does all come full circle — I was able to go to MVCC and have a wonderful experience as a student. And now, to be able to continue this relationship with MVCC in our community is just incredibly amazing."



# ANNUAL FUND TOTALS REACH NEARLY \$47,000

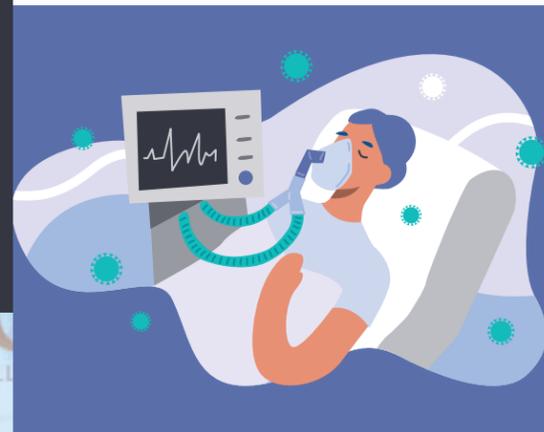
Although it was a difficult year for so many, our alumni did not disappoint with their generosity. The 2020-21 MVCC Annual Fund campaign proved to be very successful—even topping last year's total! This year's mailings raised nearly \$47,000 from 377 donors.

**In the last year, the generosity of our alumni has helped the MVCC Foundation:**

# \$47,000

Last year we made an effort to do our best to communicate with you on your schedule. As you know, we sent a series of mailings that you were able to read at your leisure. Additionally, we periodically send email updates. We are currently in the process of building our database of mobile phone numbers so we can text you with alumni updates, events, and solicitations. If we don't have your mobile phone number or your email address, please feel free to reach out to us with your updated contact information:

**315-792-5555 or alumni@mvcc.edu**



Create the MVCC Cares Fund to assist students with the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

Assist 39 students with \$35,645 in Emergency Relief funding



Endow the Francis A. Wilcox Memorial Presidential Scholarship (formerly MVCC's Presidential Scholarship)



Assist 340 students with \$341,773 in scholarships





### SCHOLARSHIPS ASSIST 340 STUDENTS IN 2019-2020

In 2019-2020, the Foundation's scholarship committee (supported by subcommittees of faculty and staff) reviewed hundreds of applications and awarded 340 scholarships in the amount of \$341,773 to students in a wide range of academic programs. In lieu of its traditional in-person ceremony, which could not take place due to COVID-19, the Foundation put together an online ceremony to honor this year's winners and donors, and to announce its new scholarships for 2020-2021. A text and/or email was sent to winners and donors, and the video made its debut in early September. The video is still viewable on MVCC's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/wearemvcc](https://youtube.com/wearemvcc).

### NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation is pleased to offer more than 100 scholarship opportunities to students, and these opportunities keep growing thanks to our generous donors. The Foundation partnered with community members and donors to launch four new scholarship funds in 2020-2021:

#### The Francis A. Wilcox Memorial Adult

**Scholarship**, established to assist both incoming and returning adult students who are attending MVCC, and are working to complete a degree or a certificate program.

#### The Patrick Duegaw Electrical Engineering

**Scholarship**, established in memory of Patrick Duegaw, a 1964 and 1965 graduate of MVCC's engineering program. This scholarship provides assistance to a student enrolled in the Electrical Engineering Technology program.

#### The Samuel L. Troia Memorial Scholarship,

established in memory of Samuel L. Troia by his family. Mr. Troia worked as a Registered Nurse for more than 30 years, and felt strongly about nursing programs being accessible to all students. This scholarship provides assistance to both incoming and returning Nursing students.

#### The Sammy John Troia Memorial Scholarship,

established to honor the memory of Sammy John Troia, whose life ended tragically as a result of a car accident. Mr. Troia was in the process of completing a bachelor's degree in business with the goal of becoming an entrepreneur. This scholarship provides assistance to both incoming and returning students enrolled in one of MVCC's Business programs.

**Virginia Motyka Green '49** is one of MVCC's first graduates and biggest cheerleaders. She majored in Retail Business Management, the first academic program offered by the College — which was then called the New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences — and was editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, *Nysiaas News*. After graduating, Green worked at W.T. Grant Company on Bleecker Street in Utica before getting hired at the New York Telephone Company. Years later, Green says she was still using what she learned during her college days to help her husband manage the family business. **“My associate degree truly opened doors for advancement as soon as I graduated.”**



Virginia Green '49

### 1970s

**Alex Melnikow '75**, Mechanical Engineering Technology, retired after 41 years of federal civilian service and established a management consultant company in 2016 in the Washington D.C. area. As Principal Owner of LEXNIKO, LLC, Melnikow has provided project management support to the Department of Defense program management team that oversees the \$110 million of federal investment in the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics (AIM Photonics).

**Randy Loboda '76** was awarded a J.D. degree from Florida A&M University School of Law on May 16, 2020. Loboda graduated from MVCC with an associate degree in Criminal Justice and Midwestern State University in 2011 with an applied arts and sciences degree. Loboda retired from the Dallas Police Department in 2013 after 33 years of service.

### 1980s

**Cathy Cucharale '83** launched a new company called Cucharale Consulting Group, LLC (CCG) to provide comprehensive solutions for a diverse range of financial firms and businesses. CCG focuses on the challenges that companies face regarding regulatory compliance, business development, and organizational management.

**Dr. Patricia Klimkewicz '85**, Nursing, has been named Dean of Health Sciences at Hudson Valley Community College.

### 1990s

**Lt. Frank Fragapane '94** retired after serving and protecting the residents of the City of Rome for 20 years.

### 2000s

**Sharon Giovino '04**, president and CEO of World Services for the Blind, served as the guest speaker at the virtual discussion, “All You Need to Know About COVID-19 But Were Afraid to Ask,”

for students and alumni who are blind or visually impaired, hosted by MVCC's Office of Accessibility Resources on April 16.

### 2010s

**Hajrudin Omeragic '10**, and his wife, Mersiha, recently opened the new Yummilicious Café & Bakery in Utica.

**Meghan Misiaszek '15** was named Employee of the Year at Slocum-Dickson Medical Group.

**Todd Stevens '16** was recruited to the Rome Fire Department in March.

**William Soldato '73**, Criminal Justice, wrote a book, “Under Too Long,” about his work as a part of the New York State Petroleum, Alcohol, and Tobacco Bureau (PATB) undercover team. In 2007, agents of the team seized over half a million dollars in untaxed alcohol, drugs, and guns. This take-down, the largest in New York history, led to 87 arrests.

## HAWKS HEALTHCARE HEROES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

Carli Amodio '18

MVCC has been educating students in the healthcare field for decades, and is proud to hear about the life-saving work our graduates do on a daily basis, especially in times like these. Over the past few months, we have been hearing and sharing stories of MVCC alumni around the country who have been working on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19. Some told us about their experiences in their own words, while others were brought to our attention by their appreciative co-workers and family members.

### Carli Amodio '18, RRT, Bassett Healthcare Network's A.O. Fox Hospital, Oneonta, N.Y.

Registered Respiratory Therapist and MVCC full-time Instructor Carli Amodio '18 shared her experience fighting COVID-19 at Bassett Healthcare's Fox Hospital in Oneonta:

"Being a respiratory therapist during these trying times has been both eye-opening and scary. We work diligently around the clock not only to save the lives of others, but also to protect ourselves and our families. One of the most difficult aspects of this fight, in my opinion, is witnessing how horrifyingly fast this disease can take over our patients, and how scared and isolated they feel not being able to have their families with them.

"What we do as respiratory therapists isn't as prominently recognized as other fields within healthcare, but RTs are an integral part of the frontline team. Along with the rapidly changing medications that COVID patients are receiving, they also often require help with breathing. While some patients need supplemental oxygen and different breathing

"As an alum, I can confidently say that MVCC's Respiratory Care program has prepared me tremendously to endure these unexpected circumstances; and for that I am a forever grateful and proud registered respiratory therapist."

techniques, others require artificial airways and mechanical ventilation — that's our specialty. As cardio-pulmonary experts, this aspect of our field is integral. It involves configuring patient-specific settings and utilizing these settings to breathe for our patients when they are unable to effectively do so themselves. We also maintain the ventilators, draw blood to assess lung function, and make setting changes as necessary. This is just a fraction of what we do on a daily basis.

"With everything changing so frequently, our protocols and policies are also changing rapidly. This requires us to work seamlessly in keeping up with the most current data and treatment recommendations to ensure our patients are receiving the best care during these scary times."

### Victoria Scialdo '19, RRT, St. Joseph's Health, Syracuse, N.Y.

Registered Respiratory Therapist Victoria Scialdo '19 shared her experiences at St. Joseph's Health in Syracuse:

"The hardest part of working with patients with COVID-19 has been the unknowns of the disease process. We see some patients who decline rapidly, while some may only need supplemental oxygen or other breathing strategies. If their oxygen needs tend to increase, they may require mechanical ventilation. We are highly skilled in controlling every aspect of the ventilator. We draw blood that tells us how the patient's lungs are functioning and make decisions from there to move them in the right direction. Our goal is to get them off of life support as soon as possible for the best chance at a normal life.

"We are sometimes referred to as the 'silent angels' of the hospital, because our patients are often too sick to know the role we played in their recovery, but there

"is nothing silent about being a respiratory therapist. We tend to work long shifts and often take our work home with us, wondering if there was more we could do, but we always make every breath count!

"MVCC's Respiratory Care program has given me so much knowledge in the field and has led me to the therapist I am today, and for that I am forever grateful."

### Christopher Kuehnle '13, RRT, St. Mary's Healthcare, Amsterdam, N.Y.

Both Christopher Kuehnle '13 and his wife, Nicole, are graduates of MVCC's Respiratory Care program — Chris graduated in 2013, and Nicole in 2009.

We heard about Chris, a respiratory therapist at St. Mary's Healthcare in Amsterdam, N.Y., through a Facebook post by one of his colleagues. She wrote: "This is Chris. He's one of our #covidICU respiratory therapists at SMH. He risks his (and his family's) well-being on a daily basis by choosing his calling. His profession exposes him to aerosolized particles when working with critically ill COVID patients to ensure that they are receiving their breathing treatments so they have a fighting chance. He brings his humility, sense of purpose, drive, compassion, and expertise to each COVID patient encounter, all the while bringing joy and uplifting the nurses with good humor. The victories we've had in survival for our intubated COVID patients would not be possible without the support, dedication, and passion of RTs like Chris. He is one of my #everydayheroesofSMH who fills my heart with gratitude, pride, and hope."

"The victories we've had in survival for our intubated COVID patients would not be possible without the support, dedication, and passion of RTs like Chris."

### Otto Allanson '18, RRT, Ochsner Medical Center, New Orleans, La.:

"I am in my first year as a respiratory therapist, and I work in a hospital in New Orleans, where there is an abundance of cases of COVID-19. While the effects of the virus can be deadly in some cases, in many others I have seen patients treated and recover enough



Victoria Scialdo '19



Christopher Kuehnle '13



Otto Allanson '18

Jennifer Munn

to a point of health that enables them to be released. The successes we have with these patients are a direct result of the life-saving skills and experience I acquired as a student in the MVCC Respiratory Care program. Respiratory therapists make a difference."

### Jackson Nova, RRT, Orlando Regional Medical Center, Orlando, Fla.:

"Here at Orlando Regional Medical Center, we have dedicated COVID respiratory therapists and units. We've been fortunate enough to have enough masks for everyone in our department. We have adjusted several of our protocols in order to protect our patients and co-workers."

**Nursing student Jennifer Munn:** MVCC freshman Nursing student Jennifer Munn, an AEMT-Paramedic for the Central Oneida County Volunteer Ambulance Corps, has volunteered to go to a COVID-19 testing site on Long Island to help fight the pandemic in one of the hardest-hit areas. Jennifer is living the core values we all share at MVCC by modeling the way to put others before ourselves and embracing the community by fighting to protect us all.

**Send us your news!** MVCC wants to hear from you! Alumni may submit Class Notes for future issues to [alumni@mvcc.edu](mailto:alumni@mvcc.edu) with "Class Notes" in the subject line. Please include your name, graduation year, and your major, as well as some information about your accomplishments. Also remember to keep your contact information up-to-date so we can stay connected.

Five new esteemed individuals were selected for induction into the MVCC Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2020. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, celebration of this year's inductees has been postponed until 2021.

The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have embraced our community, modeled the way, inspired confidence, and encouraged excellence at MVCC. Selections are also chosen based on business or professional achievements or awards, leadership service to the local community, personal achievements, leadership support and involvement at MVCC, significant contributions to MVCC athletics, and any other appropriate qualifications.

**For full bios, visit [halloffame.mvcc.edu](http://halloffame.mvcc.edu)**

**THIS YEAR'S INDUCTEES ARE:**



**Josephine Alexander**

Department Head/Professor Emerita Josephine Alexander worked at MVCC for 46 years, initially serving as an adjunct instructor before transitioning to Associate Professor, Department Coordinator, and finally Department Head in 1993. After retiring from that position in 2001, Alexander brought her career full circle by staying on staff as an adjunct instructor.

Over the course of her tenure, Alexander helped develop the Chemical Dependency Counseling Program and related courses; handbooks for the Human Services Internship Program; relationships with local organizations to ensure access to high-quality experiential learning sites; and she also coordinated development of the MVCC/SUNY Oneonta joint education program. She served as MVCC Senate Chair for 10 years, and was involved in many other facets of the College.

Alexander is the recipient of the MVCC Excellence in Teaching Award; the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching; the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence in Teaching Award; and was named a Surrogate Decision Making Committee Panelist of the Year.

She has maintained extensive involvement in the community. She was appointed by the governor to serve on the Board of Visitors for Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center (where she also served as Board President), served as a member and President of the New York State Association of Boards of Visitors, and has been involved with many other community organizations.



**Nancy Caputo**

Associate Dean/Professor Emerita Nancy Caputo served MVCC for more than 30 years, beginning as an Instructor of Nursing in 1978 and working her way up to Professor, Health Services Department Head, and finally Associate Dean for Nursing and Allied Health in the Center for Life and Health Sciences in 2010.

Caputo's efforts on behalf of the Nursing program made a lasting impact on the College. She established many articulation agreements to help students seamlessly transfer to four-year institutions and developed a relationship with Rome Hospital that led to a Rome Campus Nursing Program. During her tenure in leadership, the Nursing Program achieved accreditation from the National League of Nursing Accreditation Commission for the maximum number of years awardable. Caputo also is still empowering nursing students through a scholarship she began when she retired.

Caputo's leadership was recognized with the NISOD Excellence Award in Teaching; the MVCC Excellence in Faculty Service Award; the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service; and the Genesis Award for Nurse Educator.

She founded the Nursing Executives in Education and Service (NEXES) Group for professional development, and her commitment to the region's healthcare made her a sought-after consultant.

She served on many College boards and advisory committees, and even through retirement she volunteers with the American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, and the American Cancer Society.



**Evon M. Ervin**

Evon M. Ervin '97 is an MVCC alumna who has demonstrated a lifelong dedication and drive to serving her College and community. A Human Services graduate who went on to become Deputy Director of the Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Ervin has been an outstanding role model who is quick to reach out to students and share her personal journey. She overcame

the challenges of growing up in a low-income neighborhood and has struggled with a disability and the trials of single motherhood all while balancing education, work, and family. She also is a member of the MVCC Alumni Association and speaks at various College events.

In addition to her work for the MVCAA, Ervin has served on the Oneida County Board of Legislators (including on the Economic Development & Tourism and the Health & Human Services committees); as the Vice President of Utica City School District Board of Education; as a Board member for The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter, the Utica Public Library, and Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES; on committees for the NYS School Boards Association; as Treasurer for the city of Utica's Harbor Point Development Corporation Board of Directors; and more.

Ervin's deep commitment to her community has been widely recognized through professional awards and honors. She was named the MVCC Alumna of Merit; received a Community Service Award from the NYS College Trustees Association; received the Salute to Outstanding Women Human and Public Services Award from the YMCA; and received the Women of Worship: Deborah Award recognizing leadership and wisdom.



**William Hysell**

Professor Emeritus William Hysell began his career at MVCC in 1981. He served as a faculty member for 37 years, during which he also acted as Humanities Coordinator, Coordinator of MVCC's College in Prison program, and as interim Department Head for Humanities on two separate occasions.

Hysell demonstrated extraordinary talent and success as an instructional designer and was an advocate and pioneer of student-centered learning through the "flipped classroom" and other innovative models. His contributions included early designing of learning communities, linking disciplines to enrich learning; design of college seminar courses; design of multiple courses to enhance the student experience; first design of an Eastern Philosophy course at MVCC; and co-design of EN106 to support students needing additional developmental reading support. He was the first MVCC faculty member to pioneer a textbook readability study, which laid the institutional foundation for student success initiatives such as Achieving the Dream.

Hysell's exceptional service was recognized with multiple excellence awards, including the Disability Recognition Award; MVCC Heart of the Hawk Award; MVCC Excellence in Teaching Award; Teaching Fellowship at the North American Council for Staff, Program, and Program Development; and the MVCC Excellence Award in Faculty Service. He supported multiple committees and initiatives throughout his tenure, as well.



**John B. Stetson**

John B. Stetson served on the MVCC Board of Trustees through a gubernatorial appointment for 23 years until his retirement in 2020. A New York State-registered Professional Engineer and CEO of his own engineering firm that ranked in the top 200 nationally, Stetson leveraged his expertise to shepherd the Board through major design and construction projects, including both the massive Robert R. Jorgensen Athletic and Events Center, and the \$30 million redesign and renovation of the John D. Plumley Complex in Rome.

He founded Stetson-Harza Architects, Engineers, and Construction Managers in Utica, and spearheaded planning, concept development, and project management for major projects. His company employed more than 320 architects, engineers, and technicians, and was ranked No. 198 in Engineering News Record's list of the country's 500 largest design firms in 1992. He also is an American Society of Civil Engineers member.

In addition to his service to MVCC, Stetson is a supporter of a variety of community organizations. Beyond his 1993 retirement, he has continued to actively contribute to the community through service to nonprofit and organizational boards, including the Holland Patent Central School District's Board of Education, Presbyterian Homes and Services, the Stanley Theatre Restoration Committee, and Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute.

# MVCC NEWS AND EVENTS



## MVCC PARTNERS WITH CREE | WOLFSPEED TO CREATE TRAINING FACILITY FOR SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING AUTOMATION

The MVCC Foundation is pleased to partner with the Cree | Wolfspeed team on its transformative workforce development initiative by planning and installing a semiconductor manufacturing automation lab at the MVCC Center at Bagg's Square. This fully functional state-of-the-art semiconductor manufacturing automation center will be used to provide training in the technical skills required for the new job openings at the Cree | Wolfspeed fabrication facility in Marcy, as well as for employment at any other semiconductor manufacturer here in the Mohawk Valley.

Development of the 4,500 square feet of space that Cree | Wolfspeed is utilizing was completed in October. The installed equipment includes AMHS and wafer handling equipment, a training room, and two huddle areas for private meetings. The company will also be utilizing space for up to 40 administrative personnel who will be working there until their permanent administrative building is completed in Marcy.

This \$550,000 project was funded locally with partnerships through Mohawk Valley EDGE and the Community Foundation, who each agreed to provide \$250,000. If the Community Foundation and MV EDGE had not stepped up, Utica would not be the epicenter of semiconductor training for Cree | Wolfspeed and other future semiconductor firms.



## TEA LEAF MANUFACTURING

Tea Leaf Manufacturing (TLM) launched in September 2019. Utilizing the only local state-of-the-art 3D metal printer, TLM has successfully worked with many local businesses, including Indium Corporation, on various projects and patents. During the onset of the pandemic, TLM worked with local hospitals on 3D printing a prototype of a respirator and 3D printed face shields. In the coming year, TLM plans to focus on its marketing strategies and website design to continue to increase its customer base. Companies, entrepreneurs, and others looking for assistance with 3D printing or any project design may contact **TLM at [tealeaf@mvcc.edu](mailto:tealeaf@mvcc.edu)**.

"Tea Leaf Manufacturing totally hit the mark! The self-adhesive engraved leaves for our Center's 'Giving Tree' are perfect. James was so helpful and responsive. We would highly recommend Tea Leaf! Thank you!" — **Christy Stephenson, Midtown Utica Community Center**



## TEA LEAF AIRCRAFT EXCHANGE, LLC

Tea Leaf Aircraft Exchange, LLC (TLAE) has been working hard on establishing relationships with aircraft owners and others in the aviation industry. With the pandemic and the subsequent slowdown of the aircraft industry, TLAE has been using this time to solicit aircraft donations across the country. In an effort to capitalize on the recent uptick in demand for used certified parts, TLAE also has been building a robust parts inventory for potential buyers.

For more information on TLAE, please visit its new website, [www.mvcc.edu/tlae/](http://www.mvcc.edu/tlae/). Individuals interested in donating aircraft, or purchasing parts from TLAE's existing inventory, may contact TLAE at [tealeaf@mvcc.edu](mailto:tealeaf@mvcc.edu).



## C3 WEEK OF GIVING

The MVCC Foundation raised \$26,525 from 233 donors during its Week of Giving in support of the College-Community-Connection (C3) program.

C3 helps MVCC fulfill its mission to provide accessible college education by addressing barriers that keep students from achieving academic goals, through various resources including an on-campus food pantry and referrals to community services.

While the program is partially funded through the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, the College is moving toward

self-sufficiency within three years, and the donations will go toward the goal of continuing the program's positive impact.

The C3 program was created as a pilot project in 2016, with the goal of providing students with an on-campus support center to offer solutions to non-academic issues that could prevent them from completing their degree. Services have included support with food insecurity, housing, and other basic needs; child and elder care; transportation and bus passes; counseling and legal services; school supplies; and healthcare.

During its transition to become a permanent part of the MVCC campus, C3 has served more than 1,000 students. Additionally, since the COVID pandemic began, many students have requested access to technology and specifically laptops to help them complete their school work in an online format.

## MVCC CARES

MVCC launched a new fundraising effort in April to assist students through the COVID-19 crisis. MVCC Cares was created to support students who had fallen on hard times due to the pandemic, and designed to help them stay on track to complete their degrees by providing need-based micro-grants to assist with basic resources due to lost wages or unexpected expenses for food, transportation, and housing. The campaign ran through June 30.

The majority of MVCC's students face financial stress under the best of circumstances. With the advent of the pandemic, that stress has been radically heightened. In addition to the everyday challenges they already faced, students are now struggling to survive forced unemployment, the costs of internet, and technology resources for distance learning, childcare, healthcare, and so much more.

As a result of this effort, the MVCC Foundation raised more than \$30,000, with an expected \$30,000 match from the SUNY Impact Foundation.



# \$30,000



**FREEWILL**

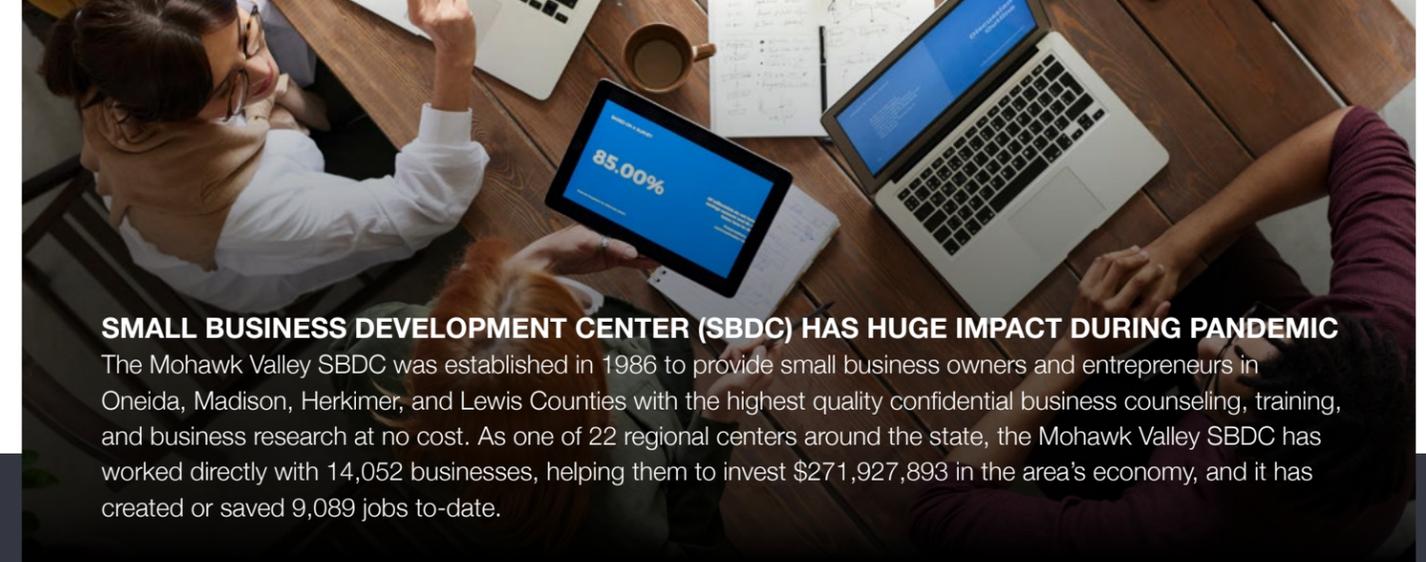
Do you have an updated, legal will in place to protect your loved ones? If your answer is no, you're not alone. Nearly half of all Americans over the age of 55 do not have a will, and we know that many in our MVCC community may fall in that category. Although creating a will is a necessary way to protect your loved ones, people often avoid this task because creating a will can seem scary, complicated, and expensive.

Here are some common pitfalls that keep people from estate planning:

- 1. But I don't have "an estate!"** - You don't need to own a castle in Europe to need an estate plan. It's important to have a plan for little details, like who might take care of a pet, or who you want to take your furniture.
- 2. I'm too young to make a will!** - Actually, whether you're 18 or 80, a will is an incredible expression of values for the people and causes you love, and you don't want to be stuck without one.

- 3. How can this help the communities and causes I care about?** - Planning a gift in your will for a cause you're passionate about or a community you love is one of the most powerful actions you can take. Your planned gift is your promise — without paying anything today.

We all have been faced with unforeseen challenges this year, so if you don't have a legal will, MVCC is here to help. In partnership with FreeWill, take 20 minutes today to create your will at no cost at [FreeWill.com/MVCC](https://FreeWill.com/MVCC).



**SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC) HAS HUGE IMPACT DURING PANDEMIC**

The Mohawk Valley SBDC was established in 1986 to provide small business owners and entrepreneurs in Oneida, Madison, Herkimer, and Lewis Counties with the highest quality confidential business counseling, training, and business research at no cost. As one of 22 regional centers around the state, the Mohawk Valley SBDC has worked directly with 14,052 businesses, helping them to invest \$271,927,893 in the area's economy, and it has created or saved 9,089 jobs to-date.

The pandemic has greatly affected the needs of small businesses and the SBDC has seen a huge influx of disaster-related client activity. Since March 9, 2020, SBDC has:

- 237 NEW clients, compared to 113 during the same time period last year
- 716 clients with activity, compared to 481 last year
- 33 new businesses, compared to 21 last year
- Assisted in securing \$9.1 million in grants and loans to date, compared to \$1.8 million last year.

Individuals or small businesses that have a question or would like to make an appointment for assistance through the Small Business Development Center at MVCC's thINCubator, are asked to complete an intake form online by visiting: [thincubator.co/intake/](https://thincubator.co/intake/). They may also call the SBDC at 315-731-5884.



Drama Club '75

**MVCC YEARBOOKS NOW ONLINE**

MVCC yearbooks from 1950-1989 are now publicly available to view online, thanks to the Central New York Library Resources Council and the MVCC Library! Copies of MVCC's Yearbooks have been available to view by the public in MVCC's Library for several years, but it's not always feasible to stop in to look up a former classmate. Now, with a few taps of the keyboard, you can look up your former classmates online!

Visit: [mvcc.edu/alumni](https://mvcc.edu/alumni) and click on **MVCC Yearbooks 1950-1989**.

**MVCC'S CAREER SERVICES OFFICE CREATES LINKEDIN GROUP**

MVCC's Career Services Office has created a new LinkedIn group specifically for student and alumni networking. Did you know that 60-80% of current employees got their positions through networking? Don't miss out on a possible career opportunity; join today! Visit [LinkedIn.com](https://LinkedIn.com) and search for the group: MVCC Student and Alumni Career Network.



**MVCC DONATES PPE, VENTILATORS TO HELP MVHS FIGHT PANDEMIC**

MVCC donated medical supplies to the Mohawk Valley Health System on March 31, in an effort to help local healthcare providers respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like many hospitals across the nation, MVHS was preparing for a surge of patients due to the virus and was in dire need of personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies and ventilators. MVCC volunteered equipment from its School of Health Sciences hospital inventory to help meet the need, donating four ventilators, 550 disposable gowns, 400 isolation face masks, and thousands of

pairs of gloves (both sterile and non-sterile).

"The saying, 'It takes a village,' is reinforced by the wonderful outpouring of support MVHS has received from this community," said MVHS President and CEO Darlene Stromstad. "We are so grateful to MVCC, a longtime friend and partner, for its generosity and support. When we all get through this — and we will get through it — it will be because of the support from organizations like MVCC."



Tim Thomas, assistant vice president of Learning and Academic Affairs at MVCC, echoed this sentiment. "MVHS' healthcare professionals have the reputation for providing exceptional patient care, and we at MVCC were humbled by the opportunity to support these individuals as they prevail in their work."





# TED MOORE RUN/WALK

## TED MOORE RUN/WALK TO GET NEW LOOK

The Ted Moore Run/Walk will sport a new look starting in 2021. The updated logo still includes the classic red and black hues, and the tagline: “None for the Road,” and will include a bottle, road pattern, and key which were in the run/walk’s original design. These elements combined add to further the mission of the event reminding folks not to drink and drive.

The new logo was selected by members of the Ted Moore Run/Walk Committee, along with the input from Ted’s family. McGrogan Design, owned by MVCC alumnus Ryan McGrogan, created the new look. The new logo will make its debut at the event in 2021.



## GOLF TOTALS

### Golf Tournament supporters help Foundation raise more than \$31,000 in lieu of in-person event

Thanks to the generous supporters of our 34th Annual Golf Tournament, the MVCC Foundation raised more than \$31,000 for its areas of greatest need, despite the event being canceled to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. While the Foundation was disappointed to have to cancel the golf tournament, originally scheduled for June 15, we recognized it was our responsibility to consider the health and safety of our community. In lieu of the in-person event, we asked our corporate partners, business and community leaders, and MVCC alumni to support MVCC’s areas of greatest need, a fund designed to maintain the College’s impact in the face of swiftly evolving societal, technological, and academic needs — a purpose that, during this global health crisis, is more relevant than ever before. The fund’s flexibility of purpose enables rapid response to shifting community needs and the ability to pursue unprecedented opportunities, ultimately supporting a stronger, more supportive, and academically outstanding experience for all who interact with MVCC.

### 2020 MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament Sponsors

- American Dining Creations: \$15,000
- Michael Briggs '63: \$10,000
- Strategic Financial Services: \$2,500
- Scalzo, Zogby & Wittig, Inc.: \$2,857
- Beebe Construction Services: \$1,500
- Griffith Earl Savery Group: \$1,500
- MARCH Associates: \$1,000
- Association of Mohawk Valley Administrators (AMVA): \$650
- Judge Anthony Garramone: \$100
- Harry Hertline: \$30

**Save the date for 2021!**  
The 35th Annual MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Monday, June 21, 2021, at the Valley View Golf & Country Club.

### MVCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Anthony J. Colón, Chair  
Oneida County Appointment, 2008

Dr. Frank Dubeck, Jr., Vice Chair  
Governor Appointment, 2016

Camille T. Kahler  
Oneida County Appointment, 2012

William S. Calli, Jr.  
Oneida County Appointment, 2003

David Mathis '70  
Oneida County Appointment, 1977

Wendy Waters  
Oneida County Appointment, 2019

Elaine M. Falvo  
Governor Appointment, 1988

Fabiha Khan  
Student Trustee

### MVCC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President

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Stephen Coupe, Vice President  
Lori Kaplan Felice, Secretary  
Mike Parsons, Treasurer

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Robert Angelicola  
Joanne Donaruma-Wade  
Sheila K. Gilroy  
Charles Green  
Rick Short  
Rosemary Talarico

#### MVCC Board Of Trustee Appointees

Wendy Waters  
Camille Kahler

#### MVCC Alumni Association Appointee

Darlene Mack-Brown

#### Additional Board Members

Frank B. DuRoss, Vice President for Community Development and Executive Director of MVCC Foundation  
Tom Squires, Vice President for Administrative Services  
Fabiha Khan, Student Trustee

### MVCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Retail Business Management  
Vice President  
Darlene Mack-Brown '88  
Health Information Technology  
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#### Additional Board Members

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Mechanical Engineering Technology  
Evon Ervin '97  
Human Services  
Richard Goodney '78  
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Doug Hyldelund '86  
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Jean Leandre '07  
Business Management  
Arthur Rapp '90  
Business Accounting  
Scott D. Selden '86  
Advertising  
Joanne Frances Sczygiel '00  
Early Education

**ABOUT THE MVCC FOUNDATION**

MVCC Foundation, Inc. is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit corporation that relies on the generosity of its alumni and donors to provide support and opportunities to the College and its students. Every dollar raised can make a difference, and there are many ways you can give and have a positive impact on our students and community.

**Online:** MVCCFoundation.org

**By Mail:** Checks can be made payable to MVCC Foundation, Inc. and mailed to the attention of the Foundation at:

1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY 13501

**By Phone:** 315-792-5555 (Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m – 4:30 p.m.)

**By Text Message:** The MVCC Foundation will have the ability to communicate with alumni and donors via text message. Please contact our office to update your mobile phone number.

**Establish a Named Scholarship**

With a minimum contribution of \$10,000, an annual scholarship may be established. Pledge commitments can be paid over time.

**Underwrite an Annual Event**

Whether it's the Ted Moore Run and Walk, our annual scholarship dinner, or the MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament, there are a number of opportunities to highlight your business or organization and support MVCC in creative ways.

**Make a Contribution to Honor a Loved One**

Celebrate a special occasion or remember a loved one by honoring them with a gift to the MVCC Foundation.

**Consider Gift Planning**

Please remember MVCC in your estate plan or by making a gift that makes payments back to you before benefitting MVCC. For additional information, contact Vice President Frank DuRoss at 315-792-5526 or fduross@mvcc.edu

**Gifts In-Kind**

Gifts in-kind are a form of giving in which, instead of giving money to buy goods and services, those products or services are themselves given. In the past, MVCC has received gifts in-kind that include airplanes, office furnishings, and equipment.

**Matching Gifts**

You may be able to double or even triple the impact of your gift if you or your spouse's employer participates in a Corporate

Matching Gifts program. Simply speak with your human resources or personnel office about obtaining a gift match form and include the completed form with your contribution.

**Don't forget to follow MVCC on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn for the latest College news and alumni information!**



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