



Senators hear the issues facing regional colleges

MVCC played host to State Sen. Kenneth LaValle, chairman of the Committee on Higher Education, earlier this week as part of the Town Hall Education Series hosted by State Sen. Joseph Griffo of Rome.

LaValle visited MVCC, Utica College and SUNYIT to discuss the main issues impacting the area's institutions of higher education. During his time in the Mohawk Valley, LaValle spoke to student leaders and other area college presidents at Herkimer County Community College, the Utica School of Commerce, Morrisville State, Hamilton, and Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute.

"We spent a fair amount of time talking about the manner in which all of the colleges collaborate in the area to really focus on providing an educated citizenry, and a trained workforce," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.

VanWagoner also talked to the senators about the affordability of college and connections between colleges and businesses. One of the biggest issues continues to be providing a trained, educated workforce for the industries soon to be growing in our area such as nanotechnology, VanWagoner said.

"It's going to require a higher level of education and certainly beyond a high school diploma," he said. "All of the colleges need to be collaborating in every which way to be able to deliver."

Another issue discussed was funding and the importance of keeping up on capital projects.



CAMPUS TOUR - Ibrahim Rosic, Director of the Learning Center, shakes hands with State Sen. Kenneth LaValle, chairman of the Committee on Higher Education, during a tour of the Utica Campus. Among the onlookers was State Sen. Joseph Griffo (third from right) of Rome.

"One of the things he got to see was the amount of support outside the classroom we provide students, and that requires us to have adequate funding in our operating budgets," VanWagoner said about LaValle. VanWagoner spoke to LaValle about the need to keep buildings updated, and the funding required to do so.

Visiting professor talks string theory

The College welcomed visiting professor and author Tasneem Zehra Husain earlier this week as part of a WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) presentation on finding the "optimal" paths in her research on string theory and in life. Husain one of few female, Pakistani physicists; her uniqueness has helped define her career to this point.

"What I love about physics is that it is so full of analogy and wisdom of its own. It teaches us things about how the world works and I don't feel we draw enough analogies from the sciences," said Husain.

Husain lectured on the principle of least action and explained how in nature, elements always want to take the optimal path. Whether it be chemical, light or electricity, the element will take the shortest path which has the least resistance.

Being a physicist, Husain discussed how life and the universe is constantly in flux.

"You may end up travelling along routes that weren't pre-meditated, but in every case, even though flux deforms your geometry, there is a new optimal path, and that is what you should embrace," said Husain.



Jenna North to exhibit in Small Works Gallery

PrattMWP Professor Jenna North, an MVCC alumna and accomplished artist is showing her work in "Showroom: Post-Apocalyptic Interior Decorating" in the Small Works Gallery in the Information Technology Building on the Utica campus. North gave a gallery talk on Wednesday, Oct. 9, about the exhibit, which presents



North

paintings and sculptural installations. With North curating, her alter ego "Wendy Well" has included integrated selections from artists that she will represent in Post-Apocalyptic Interior Decorating.

The artist says the domestic décor of "Showroom" has aesthetic and conceptual connections to post-war retro futurism, suburban bliss, and 1950s housewife gone craft crazy, all wrapped up with a twist of the contemporary world energy crisis and the common doomsday themes popularized by Hollywood, Greenpeace, and the multitude of artists working with themes around environmental catastrophe and urban decay.

The exhibit will be on view through Nov. 1 in the Small Works Gallery. Gallery hours are 1-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.



STOP THE VIOLENCE - The College took a stand for Domestic Violence Awareness Month on Friday as employees and students were encouraged to wear purple in support. Team MVCC has been selling carnations and selling wristbands this week to help raise money for the Alex Kogut 5K Run/Walk which will be held on Saturday at SUNY IT. Kogut is the teenage girl who was murdered by her boyfriend last year.

CCED hosts Medical Mania Camp

Six area teenagers attended CCED's Medical Mania camp. Maryanne Tavern instructed the teens in various medical fields, including guest speakers. They went through an array of health care skills and procedures, including CPR, cadaver lab, and respiratory care.

They learned how to take vital signs, and each had a mannequin to care for through

the week and learned the importance of HIPAA laws. Gail Warchol, who coordinated the camp, was able to get donations for gift bags from the following health care providers: Reaves Dental Practice, American Heart Association, American Cancer Association, Mercy Flight Central and St. Elizabeth's Medical Center.

The camp ended with an all-day extravaganza at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center. Karen Burton from St. Elizabeth's was instrumental in setting up a full schedule for the campers. The teens got tours and met professionals in several fields.

Athlete of the Week

As a two-year starter, Vanessa Jecko has become a lynchpin in the success of the women's soccer team. On the heels of last week's performance, she has been named MVCC's Athlete of the Week for October 6, 2013.

As the Hawks' goalkeeper, Jecko kept Bryant and Stratton College scoreless for her fourth shutout of the season. On the season, she has allowed just 19 goals as the Hawks improved to 12-2 following a 3-1 victory over No. 1 nationally ranked Broome Community College.

Jecko is a sophomore General Studies major who graduated from Sauquoit High School.



Jecko