College launches campaign to support MVCC Foundation and United Way

The one trait that has made America stand out among others in the world is our willingness to give to the less fortunate. In that spirit, MVCC is launching its first-ever combined annual appeal for both the MVCC Foundation and the United Way.

As part of this year’s joint appeal to faculty and staff, the College is asking everyone to consider a gift to both the MVCC Foundation and the United Way. By giving to both organizations, those who donate not only make a difference in the lives of students and families throughout the Mohawk Valley, but you are also supporting Team MVCC.

“Team MVCC’s participation in and impact on the community is truly making a difference for many organizations and people who are in need,” said MVCC President Randall VanWagoner.

Team MVCC consists of MVCC faculty, staff, retirees and students who represent the College’s commitment to excellence and spirit of service. Some of the activities Team MVCC has participated in already this fall include a food drive for the Utica Community Food Bank and the Rome Rescue Mission, Strides against Breast Cancer Walk, assisted MVCC’s baseball team in its toy drive for the annual Holly Days Toy Drive, and most recently the Slush Ducks vs. MVCC Women’s basketball team game which raised money for a scholarship at the College.

The MVCC Foundation provides over 250 scholarships worth more than $280,000 to our students, but they cannot do this without the help of the College community.

The College will be hosting a series of informational meetings on the Utica and Rome campuses to discuss how individuals can help support the Team MVCC 4-Runners Club, the MVCC Foundation and the United Way. All meetings will not only include important information but refreshments, plenty of raffles and incentives.

Organizations like the MVCC Foundation and the United Way are actively helping individuals in our community realize their goals. Whether it is the MVCC ACCESS Fund, making it possible for students to overcome their financial obstacles to achieve their education, or our United Way who continues to invest in local programs that address the root causes of community issues. Both organizations strive to make dreams a reality, and to make a positive difference in the lives of those they serve.

Meetings will be held:
- Tuesday, October 27, at 10:15 a.m. – Information Technology Building, Room 225
- Wednesday, October 28 at 8:00 a.m. – Payne Hall, Room 300
- Thursday, October 29 at 1:00 p.m. – Alumni College Center, Room 116
- Friday, October 30 at 9:00 a.m. – Alumni College Center, Room 116
- Friday, October 30 at 11:00 a.m. – Plumley Complex Auditorium, Rome Campus

MVCC presents ‘Breaking Out of the Man Box’

Educator, activist Tony Porter to speak as part of College’s ‘An End to Violence’ campaign

On Tuesday, MVCC will host nationally recognized author/orator Tony Porter as part of its 10-day-campaign, “An End to Violence.” A Call to Men Presents Tony Porter: “Breaking Out of the Man Box” will be held at 7 p.m. in the Theater.

Porter will examine the ways in which adult men, male adolescents, and boys have and continue to be socialized to view women as having less value than men, are considered the property of men, and are deemed objects for men.

A gifted public speaker, Porter is an educator and activist who has worked in the social justice arena for over 20 years. He is the original visionary and co-founder behind A Call to Men: The National Association of Men and Women Committed to Ending Violence Against Women. In addition, Porter is the author of the eagerly anticipated book, “Breaking Out of the Man Box.”

The event will conclude the College’s 10-day-campaign, “An End to Violence,” aimed at reducing violence in the local community through educational programming geared toward faculty, staff, students, and community members.

Other events held throughout the week included a purple ribbon campaign in conjunction with the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley’s “Week Without Violence,” Mediation Day in cooperation with The Peacemaker Program, and a public forum on reducing violence in American life.

The event is free and open to the public.

Attention classified staff

This is a reminder to all classified staff that Article XII.2 of the contract indicates that a maximum of 15 days of vacation time may be carried over from one year into the next. All vacation time beyond 15 days will be lost on January 1, 2010.

Employees who may be affected by this provision and who wish to take some vacation time during the rest of 2009 should check with their supervisors early so that arrangements can be made to grant the leave at a time that is mutually agreeable.

To submit information for Communitas, e-mail Rich Haubert
rhaubert@mvcc.edu
Upward Bound’s Summer College opens many doors

With secondary schools well into the fall schedule, MVCC’s Upward Bound program is now able to track the success of the 2009 “Summer College,” which took place on the Utica campus for six weeks during July and August. There were 54 eleventh and twelfth grade students in attendance.

For those who don’t know, MVCC’s Upward Bound Program is an intensive intervention program that prepares Proctor High School students for higher education through enrichment opportunities and academic course work. This program provides students with instruction in literature, composition, mathematics, science, and foreign language during the school year and summer vacation months. There’s also intensive mentoring and support for students as they prepare for college entrance exams and tackle admission applications, financial aid, and scholarship forms.

The Summer College program enabled students to take the same classes they were scheduled during the 2009-10 academic year. Courses included English, ESL English, Spanish II/III, American sign language I, biology/living environment, earth science, chemistry, health, US history, economics, algebra II, business mathematics, geometry, trigonometry, college planning, and career and financial literacy. Pre-test/post test and a performance rubric were utilized in all core course offerings to assess student achievement.

In collaboration with Proctor High School, the textbooks were provided by the school district.

But it wasn’t all work and no play. Students were able to take a white water rafting trip down the Hudson River Gorge, which helped to promote the basic principles of teamwork, cooperation, and dependence on each student to achieve success completing the entire voyage. The rafting trip also served as an authentic lab for Summer College science and history classes as students studied the flora and fauna surrounding the river system.

Other field trips included visiting the MOST (Museum Science and Technology) and the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnett Park in Syracuse. Students also participated in a college visitation to the University at Albany where they were provided a tour of the campus and an Admissions Office presentation regarding admission requirements.

The Upward Bound Summer College culminated with a three-day/two-night trip to Washington, D.C. Students toured the Kennedy Performing Arts Center, visited Georgetown University, a guided tour of Arlington National Cemetery and witnessed the “Changing of the Guard” at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Congressman Michael Arcuri’s office arranged for a tour of the U.S. Capitol that included special passes to view the Senate Chambers, the Smithsonian’s Air and Space Museum, and a stop in front of the White House.

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When a student first stares at one of the samples in the geology lab, they may see just a rock. But for instructor Lindsey Geary it is a whole lot more. Every rock has a tale to tell and Geary instills that into her students.

“I want the students to have a better appreciation for Life Science,” says Geary.

This is the first semester at MVCC for Geary who previously worked as a geologist in the construction industry. She is now sharing that knowledge with her students in her physical geology lectures and labs as well as in the environmental science labs.

“I want the students to develop the ability to reason their way through scientific sensationalism with deductive reasoning,” said Geary. “To have them learn the value of researching a topic rather than taking it at face value.”

This Whitesboro resident holds an Associate in Science from MVCC along with a Bachelor of Science in geology from Florida State University. She also earned her Master of Science from Florida State University in Micropaleontology, where she taught as a teaching assistant.

When not in the classroom or laboratory, Geary enjoys mountain biking, snowboarding, hiking, swimming, cross country skiing, rock and mineral collecting as well as mining and piano.

MVCC Faces: Lindsey Geary

Lindsey Geary
Life Science, Instructor

MVCC Faces: Lindsey Geary

MVCC Faces: Lindsey Geary

MVCC EVENTS

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Tuesday, October 27
Police Academy, ACC 116, 8 am
Respiratory Care Club: Information Table & Testing, AB Lobby, 9:30 am
Seasonal Flu Clinic, PC Atrium, 11 am
Cultural Series Lecture: “Italian Immigrants in Rome” w/Local Historian Chris Deslito, PC Auditorium, 6 pm
Counseling/A Call to Men presents Tony Porter – “Breaking Out of the Man Box,” Theater, 7 pm

Wednesday, October 28
Police Academy, ACC 116, 8 am
SNO: Pizza/Popcorn/Candy Sale, PC Atrium, 10 am
International Club: Candy Sale, AB Lobby, 11 am
Cultural Series Lecture: Sculpture Space Artists-in-Residence, IT 225, 12 pm
Luncheon With Pizzazz, RA 108, 12 pm
Program Board: Poor Tim, Acoustic, Duo, MV Commons, 12 pm
Student Congress, IT 218, 3 pm
MVCC Concert Band Practice, ACC 116, 7 pm

Thursday, October 29
Panel Discussion/Forum: “The Rules of the Game,” Theater, 4 pm
Acoustic Cafe: Nigerian Singer/Songwriter KUKU, ACC 116, 7 pm
CCED: Ballroom Dancing, PH Lobby, 7 pm
Program Board: Chillin’ on Thursday Night – Movie: “The Hangover,” MV Commons, 8 pm

Friday, October 30
MVCC Foundation & United Way Campaign Kickoff Meeting, PC Auditorium, 11 am
Cultural Series Movie: “Transformers,” IT Theater, 4 pm
Cultural Series Movie: “Monsters vs. Aliens,” PC Auditorium, 7 pm
Murder Mystery Dinner Theater: “Sound of Murder, or How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?,” MV Commons, 7 pm
CCED Ballroom Dancing, PH Lobby, 7 pm

Saturday, October 31
MVCAA: Drinking Driver Program Class, RA 306, 8 am
Go Motorcycling: Weekend Motorcycling Class, RA 207, 8 am
Oneida County Civil Service Exams, AB 220-234, 9 am

Sunday, November 1
** Daylight Savings Time Ends **

Works by disabled artist on display on Utica Campus

Art is a form of expression that transcends an individual’s other characteristics and limitations. Though a person may be blind or deaf or have a developmental disability, he or she may be able to produce works of art that are as aesthetically beautiful and spiritually meaningful as those produced by artists who do not happen to have a disability.

A Central New York program called Exceptional Artworks, a cooperative effort among voluntary and state-operated agencies in the region, is proof of this.

Working in all types of media, these artists - all of whom have developmental disabilities - have created artwork that is displayed throughout the area, demonstrating once again that it is ability - not disability - that matters most.

A rotating selection of this artwork is on display in the Disability Services Office in room 153 of the Academic Building on the Utica Campus. We also have information regarding the scheduled exhibits and performances that will be taking place between now and the end of 2009.

HELPING STOP THE FLU - Students from MVCC’s Utica and Rome nursing program took part in administering influenza injections to the employees at Faxton/St. Luke’s Hospital recently. The students started on a Monday and worked throughout the week. The students’ work was video taped by the WUTR/FOX station.
The epic battle took place last Thursday as the invading Slush Ducks felt the force of MVCC’s powerful offensive thrust from the women’s basketball team. The Ducks, MVCC’s faculty and staff basketball team, played the women’s team in a fundraising game for the Anthony Torchia Memorial Scholarship. The women played a tremendous game with tenacious defense and spectacular shooting. As for the Slush Ducks, they kind of waddled up and down the court while showing spurts of life against MVCC’s national caliber women’s squad.

As for the final score, if you want to know, you should have attended. :-) Come out and support the women’s basketball team as they open their 2009-2010 season at home on Sunday, November 1, against Finger Lakes Community College at 1:00 p.m.