Earlier this year, SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher announced the launch of TeachNY in an effort to raise the standards and align the educational pipeline for teachers in training with the future needs of Pre-K – 12.

This new statewide campaign aims to promote the power of teaching, cement a clinical practice profession, secure investment in innovative educator preparation, improve transparency about educator supply and demand, and support the entire educator preparation pipeline.

“We have recognized that ensuring a pipeline of highly qualified high school graduates requires highly qualified teachers. … As I have said repeatedly, we prepare the teachers who prepare the students who come to college ready or not. We own this challenge,” said Chancellor Zimpher.

According to recent surveys, New York is facing a significant and growing shortage of teachers. New York will need an average of 1,700 new teachers every year as the Baby Boom generation enters into retirement. This is a national trend as data shows a need for 1.6 million new teachers over the next decade.

MVCC is being proactive in the wake of this campaign, having aligned all of the adolescence education and the childhood education programs up the SUNY curriculum as part of the seamless transfer pathway initiative.

“We will keep abreast of the emerging recommendations put forth by the New York Leadership Task Force,” said Associate Professor Julie Dewan. “We will continue to work with our partners to ensure we are providing students the necessary foundation.”

MVCC has two exclusive transfer agreements in the education programs with SUNY Oneonta and Utica College.

According to New York State Commissioner of Education Mary Ellen Elia, TeachNY is not simply a set of recommendations, but a movement to lift up the teaching profession and to ensure that New York and the nation will have the high quality educators needed for the future.

“The TeachNY initiative will go right to the source to help New York and the entire nation’s teachers adapt to future trends like advances in technology and the changes in our economy to more service and information centered industries,” said Commissioner Elia.

Each year, SUNY prepares nearly a quarter of New York State’s teachers, and New York is a key provider of teachers across the nation. SUNY’s goal is to attract and retain a sufficiently large, diverse corps of teachers committed to continuous improvement and excellence in their profession.

Chancellor Zimpher and Commissioner Elia are currently on a “Listening Tour” throughout New York State to show how SUNY and the state education department are working together to support the teaching profession and encourage good students to become teachers.

Former child star to speak on her life with social anxiety

The MVCC Cultural Series will present “How Social Anxiety Changed My Life,” a lecture by author and former child actor Lisa Jakub, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in Schafer Theater. Admission is $5 general, $2 for MVCC employees, and free for MVCC students.

As a child, Jakub starred in hit films like “Mrs. Doubtfire” and “Independence Day,” but after 18 years in the limelight, she decided to pursue a quieter life. Now a writer with work that has appeared in Newsweek, Today.com, The Huffington Post, and her memoir, “You Look Like That Girl,” Jakub will share how social anxiety and introversion made her leave acting and give her a new direction in life.
Honorizing Employees for Years of Service

The men’s basketball team at MVCC has enjoyed nearly a decade of success and accolades under the guidance of head coach Matthew St. Croix. But Coach St. Croix’s impact on the College’s community is more than a statistic on a chart.

Coach St. Croix is a mentor, educator, leader, and, in many cases, father figure to these young men. It is this dedication and commitment to molding young lives into successful citizens that was recognized during his 10-year recognition ceremony earlier this fall in the Jorgensen Center.

“When recruiting these student-athletes, having them come from a winning program is important because it means they know how to do things the right way both on the court and in life,” said Coach St. Croix.

This approach has aided Coach St. Croix in building a winning program on the hardwood, as the Hawks went 22-11 in the 2015-16 season. This was Coach St. Croix’s 10th season at the helm.

As this Watertown native heads into his 11th year, he has expanded his teaching onto a second group of student-athletes as he took over the women’s tennis program upon the retirement of former coach Steve Senior. He also carries his teaching of respect and discipline to the classroom as a physical education instructor.

In the classroom, Coach St. Croix oversees the Physical Education degree, Coaching Certificate, and Sport Management degree classes while also teaching College Seminar and fitness strength training. Outside of the classroom he is a member of the Academic Appeals Committee at MVCC, a member of the Local College Kiwanis Committee, and serves as the Vice President for Region III Basketball.

On the court with the men’s basketball program, his teams have enjoyed seven consecutive 20-win seasons and have averaged 22 victories per year. This past season, the Hawks won the NJCAA Region III championship for the first time in school history and finished the season with a national ranking of sixth. His teams have qualified for the postseason every year and made the regional finals four times.

He has brought great recognition to MVCC, having been named NJCAA District Division III Coach of the Year, Region III Coach of the Year, and the Mountain Valley Conference Coach of the Year. His tennis team won the NJCAA Region III championship in 2015.

Coach St. Croix is married to Gina St. Croix and has two daughters, Laney and Addison.

Achieving the Dream coaches visit campus

Achieving the Dream (ATD) coaches David Hartleb and Terri Manning visited the campus last week and reaffirmed the work so many at the College are doing to support the success of our students.

While on campus, they met with the core and data teams and provided insight on a new Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool (ICAT) that will provide rich data on how we view ourselves in the seven capacities identified by ATD. You will be hearing more about this tool from the data team and tri-chairs in the weeks to come.

The coaches were thrilled with the work the reading team has accomplished and implemented in identified gateway courses. They left campus energized with what the College is doing through the Pathway to Graduation Project (PGP), the College-Community-Connection (C3) grant, and continued efforts in developmental math through the Quantway pilot.

The tri-chairs are encouraged by their feedback and will have some new and exciting things to share in their ATD update to come out later in the semester.
Rome renovations nearing completion

By Paige Phillips

For the past year, MVCC’s Rome Campus has been on a steady track for the completion of its $29.5 million construction project. The objective of these various renovations is to provide modern education to help shape Central New York’s next generation of engineers, technicians, and scientists in an effort to keep future business local.

“Rome is the geographic center of Oneida County so the campus provides critical access to the region and the campus proximity to Griffiss Business and Technology Park amplifies MVCC’s role as a catalyst for workforce development in the area,” said President Randall J. VanWagoner.

The addition of a north and south wing on the existing John D. Plumley Science and Technology Complex is expected to boost enrollment. The north wing of the Plumley Complex will house the newly merged learning center and library called the Learning Commons. The Learning Commons will contain a computer lab, conference room, and host study groups. This feature is specifically designed to boost student-prosperity.

The south wing will be dedicated to Rome’s hospitality programs such as Culinary Arts and Hotel Technology. Classrooms in the center building of the Complex will contain the best surgical technology and biology labs the area has to offer.

Other improvements to the Rome Campus include upgrading parking and business entrances, full bathroom renovations, replacing ceilings and lighting fixtures in existing classrooms, masonry cleaning, and installing modern equipment. These reforms are much needed since the last renovations to the Plumley Complex were in 1997.

With a surplus found in the budget, other enhancements will be added such as directory touch screens, new auditorium seating, sidewalk replacement, the installment of a main entry LED sign, and the demolition of the existing Academic Building.

The Academic Building was a former hospital in Rome and is nearly 90 years old. Before the building can be torn down, an environmental study needs to be conducted, according to Vice President for Administrative Services Tom Squires. The Oneida Herkimer Counties Solid Waste Authority will tear down the Academic Building and the College will cover the cost of the tipping fees. Demolition is expected to occur in the Spring of 2017.

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Students will be benefit immensely from these updates. All 1,500 plus who attend the Rome Campus annually will now be under one roof. A new area will be provided for students to congregate and the addition of a new café and bookstore will persuade them to stay on campus between classes.

The project is predicted to be completed by January 2017.

Longtime nursing professor passes away

MVCC lost one of its superb professors earlier this month with the passing of Anna M. Diana on Oct. 3. She was surrounded by her family in Brookline, Mass, after a short battle with cancer, during which time she was cared for by her sister Dolores.

Diana was born in Utica, on Dec. 23, 1939, the daughter of the late Henry J. and Katherine A. (Ryan) Thomas. She was a graduate of Russell Sage College with her Master of Science in Parent-Child Nursing. She received a bachelor’s degree in Nursing from Syracuse University with a minor in education.

Her original RN license was awarded at MVCC, where she acquired her AAS.

Anna retired in 2004 from MVCC after 28 years as a Professor of Nursing. She specialized in Maturity and Childhood Development and was responsible for educating hundreds of nursing students over the span of her career. Anna continued educating nursing students after retirement at Excelsior College in Albany, NY, as a clinical evaluator for those completing their final requirement for their RN license.

Once married to Anthony F. Diana, she leaves behind two beloved sons, David A. and his partner, Maria Paladino, and Philip A. and his wife, Paula M., and four precious grandchildren, Marissa, Ryan, Nicholas, and Amelia Diana. Anna also leaves her loving sisters, Mary L. and Dolores R. Thomas. She was predeceased by an infant son, Stephen A. Diana; a sister, Katherine A. Thomas; and a special colleague and friend, George May.

She has many former students from MVCC and Excelsior College who will miss her dearly. In lieu of flowers, please donate in Anna’s name to Faxton-St. Luke’s Neonatal Care.

A full obituary can be found in The Observer-Dispatch on Oct. 6, 2016.
**Katarina Isaksson exhibit at Juergensen Gallery**

The Juergensen Gallery will host an opening reception and lecture for “Katarina Isaksson Recent Work” at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, in the Information Technology Building at MVCC. The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 9 in the gallery.

Isaksson says the conceptual core of her work stems from her interest in the perception of natural and fabricated forms, patterns, and structures, and their relation to human constructs and behavior. She uses industrial materials to create non-objective and architectural forms, often in combination with and juxtaposed to forms found in nature, either actual or suggested. She says the pieces are sometimes made for a particular space or context, and sometimes they are autonomous. She also notes the importance of the titles of her pieces as another important element in suggesting a path toward a perspective.

Isaksson was born in Gothenburg, Sweden, and was educated in Sweden and the United States. She received her bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Miami, and her master of fine art from Hunter College. Isaksson has been making and exhibiting her work for the past 30 years while working as an adjunct professor in the Art Department at Hunter College, where she has been teaching since 1988. Her work has been featured in public collections and commissions, including her “Pod,” which has been at NBT Bank on Genesee Street in Utica since 2011, and “Contemplating Sisyphus” at the Griffiss International Sculpture Park in Rome since 2010.

**Team MVCC takes strides against breast cancer**

**TOUCH A TRUCK** - The City of Rome held a Touch a Truck Day on Oct. 1. MVCC’s Sage Truck Driving School took part in the festivities. Those in attendance were able to get in the cab and experience what it is like to be in a tractor trailer. It was a big hit with young kids.