



Rome Campus to be hub for emerging technologies

As the finishing touches are applied to the new structure on the Rome Campus, this puts the College at the forefront of emerging technologies in the region and across the state.

The renovations and addition of two wings onto the Jack D. Plumley Complex makes this facility compliment the quality of the Rome programs, enabling MVCC to provide accessible, high-quality educational opportunities to meet the diverse needs of the region's economic growth.

"We have some great programs, such as hospitality, surgical tech, educational interpreting, and sign language programs, and we do expect to expand into others such as a health information technology program," said Franca Armstrong, Dean of the Rome Campus.

The \$30 million renovation project is not so much an expansion as a redevelopment to create a site that ensures access to modern facilities for faculty and students. These improvements will also benefit the surrounding community as the new space will provide a gathering place for community groups and activities. The improvements will feature a 60-person event room along with a dining hall that doubles as a lecture space capable of seating 150 people.

"Rome is the geographic center of Oneida County and being located less than a mile from Griffiss Business Park, this is really a wonderful project for the future of this region and we're really excited about it," said MVCC President Randall VanWagoner, Ph.D. "We are the community's college, committed to student success through partnerships, transfer and career pathways, and personal enrichment."

These renovations, all part of MVCC's master plan of expanding services by adding 48,000 square feet, will put all of



the more than 1,000 students under one roof. The northern wing will house the new library featuring four group study rooms, a conference room, computer lab, and a homey fireplace to read near. The computer lab is shared with the Learning Commons, that is designed to promote student success. Housed within the Learning Commons will be the testing center, math lab, writing lab, along with tutoring stations.

The southern wing, closest to Floyd Avenue, will showcase the culinary arts program. The dining room in the culinary arts area will also be used for conference space. There will also be new space for

the students to gather. There will be a bookstore and a café to entice students to stay on campus in between classes.

Off of the main atrium in the main building will be faculty offices and classrooms, as well as a one-stop student service center. New among the classrooms on the second floor will be biology and physiology labs along with state-of-the-art surgical technology and instructional sign language labs.

Construction on the entire project is expected to be complete by December of 2016. The current Academic Building on campus, the former hospital in Rome, will be demolished in the Spring of 2017.



Honoring Employees for Years of Service

While the Internet is a wonderful tool to find information, the validity of that information can be called into question. This is the importance of seeking out a librarian when researching a project or paper for a collegiate paper.

For more than 15 years, Colleen Kehoe-Robinson has been one of the crucial people to seek out for help at the College. She was recognized for her 15 years of service and dedication to MVCC's students in a ceremony in the Utica Campus library.

Kehoe-Robinson is a Reference and Instruction Librarian on the Utica Campus and holds the rank of Associate Professor.

"In this position, I provide library and information services including instruction, research assistance, and guidance to resources to students, faculty, staff, and community members," said Kehoe-Robinson.

She also coordinates the library instruction program while being an active participant in collection development and management activities along with the development of instructional guides. She serves as a liaison between the library and academic departments.

"One new initiative is to assist faculty in locating and using open educational resources (OER)," added Kehoe-Robinson.

A native of New Hartford, she teaches College Seminar (ED100) and team teaches Introduction to Public Safety Telecommunications (TC 110).

Outside of her assigned duties, Kehoe-Robinson is a member of the Cultural Events Council, the Excellence in Librarianship Award Committee, and participated in the development of a new certificate program in Emergency Management with Diana Ayers-Darling, Troy Little, and Rich Kelly. She is also a member of the ED100 Design Team and MVCC Institute Series.

Outside of the College, she is a board member of the Thea Bowman House and volunteers with the American Red Cross. She has also worked as an academic representative to the Madison-Oneida BOCES School Library System Council.

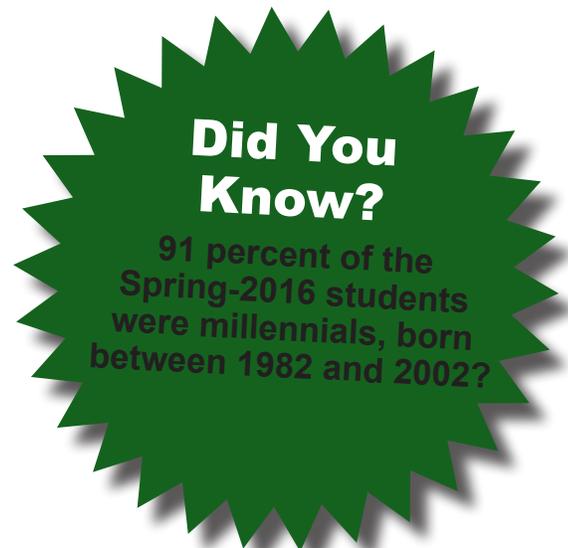
Her dedication and hard work has been recognized over the



years as she was presented the 2003 MVCC Students with Disabilities Recognition Award. In 2008, she was presented the MVCC Award for Excellence in Librarianship and the following year honored on the state level with the 2009 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship.



A FOND FAREWELL – The College lost more than a half century of talent last month when the Business Office lost three of its own to retirement. Heading off to enjoy retirement are Beverly Hertline (38 years at MVCC), John James (39 years), and Nancy Light (15 years). Dozens of their peers, co-workers, and friends gathered to share stories and cake in a celebration in the Business Office.



Learning Commons fulfills the dream

Will help students achieve success through higher education

Attending college is more than just extending a secondary education in order to earn a piece of paper. It is about dreams. Goals. Seeking the best out of life.

MVCC realizes this, which is why it has taken the unprecedented steps of creating a Learning Commons geared solely for student success. MVCC is the first community college in New York State to be a member of the Achieving the Dream (ATD) coalition. Achieving the Dream is a comprehensive non-governmental reform movement for student success through the use of coaches and advisors, state policy teams, investors and partners, to help more than four million community college students have a better economic opportunity and achieve their dreams.

The results of years of research have shown that colleges with Learning Commons achieve a higher quality of education for students and higher rate of graduation. MVCC has followed the ATD model by identifying three gateway courses all students have to take in their first semester. Students in these courses are tracked through the college's Starfish software, initiating an alert when issues arise for individual students.

"The Learning Commons will be more than a just a learning center providing tutoring services," said Director of the Learning Commons Ibrahim Rosic. "We are going to have five Completion Coaches who will guide students from the very beginning of their education. They will not just help with academics, but personal struggles. Such as transportation issues, housing problems, emergency loans, personal problems at home, daycare issues, or parents they have to take care of. The Completion Coaches will connect the students with community services to provide additional support."

During the planning and research phase of creating the Learning Commons, MVCC's faculty identified Elementary Statistics (MA110), English 1: Composition (EN101), and Introduction to General Psychology (PY101) at the gateway courses. The faculty in these areas then created toolkits for each course to provide different learning approaches to the same materials as students have different styles of learning.

Students' progress will be tracked by the Starfish software, allowing the Completion Coaches to step in before the issue escalates to a level of the student failing. The coaches will be noti-



fied if a student skips class, misses an exam, didn't do well on the first test, or is struggling in any fashion. Previously, the college utilized mid-term grades to measure students' success, but by then it is too late to turn their progress around and catch up on the classwork. The new approach is to catch the students in the first weeks of the semester and get them the resources they need.

Another feature of the Starfish software is the faculty not teaching a gateway course can refer students to the tutoring area of the Learning Commons by simply logging onto the network and clicking the service a particular student or group of students in need. Then the staff in the Learning Commons will contact the student or students.

As MVCC rolls out this new program for Fall 2016, it will target a smaller demographic of the incoming student body, with plans to apply these services to the entire college community in following semesters. The reason behind keeping the rollout small in the beginning is to work out any problems or issues so that they can be corrected on a small scale before the services are expanded to the entire community.

There will be a Learning Commons on both the Utica Campus as well as the Rome Campus. The facility on the Rome Campus will be located in the west wing of the Plumley Complex. On the Utica Campus, the Learning Commons is lo-

cated on the first floor of the Information Technology Building. The Learning Commons will feature a welcoming reception area where they will be connected with the person who can help them best. There will be a full-time librarian to assist with accessing research materials, computer labs where faculty can work with students on projects, along with math and writing labs.

The Learning Commons will also house faculty offices to offer earlier access to their teachers along with continuing to provide tutoring services. Hours of operation will be extended into the evening and each tutoring station will have two chairs for the student and the tutor. The new space will have lockers where students can store their backpacks and each work station will have charging stations for electronic devices. For group projects, there are two study rooms so not to disrupt the entire room. There are plans to have a coffee kiosk.

"Location and accessibility are very important. The former Learning Center featured a small space that was crowded much of the time, and proved to be a deterrent for new students to come in seeking help. The staff found students were intimidated by the surroundings.

"I am so excited about the brand new facility, with state of the art technology and five academic coaches. It is a true welcoming one-stop shop for help," said Rosic.

Actor, social activist Takei to visit MVCC

Fifty years ago this week, science-fiction fans all over the world were introduced to Hikaru Sulu, helmsman of the Starship Enterprise, when the very first episode of “Star Trek” soared into NBC’s primetime television rotation.

Next StarDate: 94316:02 — or 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 — after a whirlwind few weeks of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the television series that inspired generations of fans, the actor who brought Sulu to life will be speaking at Mohawk Valley Community College for “An Evening with George Takei: Actor, Social Justice Activist and Social Media Mega-Power,” part of the MVCC Cultural Series, in the Jorgensen Center Field House on the Utica Campus. Tickets



are \$35 general, \$25 for MVCC employees, and free for MVCC students. Tickets are available online at www.mvcc.edu/tickets. If you just can’t wait to celebrate this sci-fi milestone, tune into WKTV tonight at 5:30 for Peter DeLuca’s short segment on the history of “Star Trek” and its 50th anniversary.

Takei’s life story goes where few stories have gone before. From a childhood spent with his family imprisoned in a Japanese internment camp during WWII, to becoming one of the country’s leading figures in the fight for social justice, LGBTQ rights, and marriage equality, Takei remains a powerful voice on issues ranging from politics to pop culture. He also is known for his appearances on Howard Stern’s radio show, as well as his incredible social media presence — more than 9 million Facebook followers and 1.79 million Twitter followers — a true social media guru and the No. 1 most-influential person on Facebook, according to mashable.com.

This past fall, Takei made his Broadway debut with the premiere of his first musical, “Allegiance,” inspired by Takei’s true-life experience and follows one family’s extraordinary journey in an untold American story of forgiveness, joy, and the redemptive power of love. Currently, Takei hosts the AARP-produced YouTube series “Takei’s Take,” and is the subject of “To Be Takei” (2014), a documentary on his life and career. On his own YouTube channel, Takei and his husband, Brad, bring viewers into their personal life in the “heightened reality”-web series, “It Takeis Two.”



MVCC’S BEST - Jay Salsberg was presented his SUNY Chancellor’s medal and plaque for Excellence in Classified Service Award during the annual Fall Opening by MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner. Salsberg is the Senior Offset Printing Machine Operator in Office Services. His knowledge, skills, and attention to detail make him an asset to every facet of the institution. He does his job diligently and expertly, always delivering the best possible product while demonstrating exemplary customer service on a daily basis. Jay has a reputation as one of the kindest and most dedicated employees at MVCC.

Art Faculty Exhibit to inspired students

The MVCC Art Faculty Exhibit opened this week with some wonderful works on display in the Juergensen Gallery in the Information Technology Building.

The exhibit features a variety of works showcasing the College’s art programs which include photography, digital animation, fine arts, graphic design, and illustration.

“This exhibit affords our students the opportunity to view artwork by their faculty and to see that their instructors are working on similar projects to their own. Hopefully the students will be inspired and excel during their academic careers here at MVCC,” said Todd Behrendt, associate dean for the Art Department.

This year’s exhibit features 15 full-time and adjunct faculty. The Gallery hours are 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. The exhibit runs through Oct. 14.

