Kiddie Campus helps Team MVCC collect donations for heart run/walk

The members of the Kiddie Campus were cruising the Utica Campus this week seeking donations for America’s Greatest Heart Run/Walk which will be held on Saturday, March 5.

As one of the little girl kept telling everyone, “We are raising money to help pay for heart research.”

Her message was a raging success as the campers raised $140 for this year’s cause, surpassing last year’s total of $71. This money will be added to Team MVCC’s total, which has already exceeded last year’s donation of $3,874. Team MVCC’s goal this year is $5,000, with all proceeds being donated in the name of Professor Sam Drogo, who passed away in the fall from heart-related disease.

Team MVCC is nearing the $6,400 mark with the number of participants increasing from last year’s 125 to more than 200 as of Friday morning.

MVCC smoking policy survey

MVCC endeavors to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all employees, students and visitors. Because of the evidence supporting the negative effects of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke, the MVCC Safety Committee would like to recommend measures to provide the best environment for smokers and non-smokers.

To research the best methods to support this effort, students, faculty and staff are being asked to complete a short, anonymous survey. The results of the survey will be used to formulate recommendations on a smoking policy to be presented for approval by the College Senate. Your voice is important in this process.

The current Board of Trustees-approved MVCC smoking policy states: “Smoking is prohibited in all Utica and Rome campus buildings and in all designated outdoor areas, effective July 1, 2010.”

The survey will take only a few minutes to complete and can be accessed with this link: www.surveymonkey.com/s/SmokingPolicySurvey.

Thanks to all for your help.
The College Safety Committee
When it comes to moving snow and keeping the parking lots clear, the College’s grounds crew are experts. But when equipment breaks down and is replaced, they have also proven to be very creative at improvising to keep the snow removal on track.

Prior to the start of the winter, Oneida County loaned a front-end loader to the College, but there was only one problem: The old snow blade was too big and didn’t attach correctly. Mike McHarris, Director of Facilities and Operations, and Mike Kopec knew right where to turn to correct this problem.

They contacted Assistant Professor Mike Sorrentino to see if the Welders Among Communities Club would be interested in making modifications. After several planning discussions, the club members went a step further and built a new snow blade that attaches to the bucket of the front-end loader.

“This is a great experience for the students to use the skills they’ve learned in a real-world application,” said Sorrentino, who teaches welding at the College. “I think this really opened the kids’ eyes to what they can accomplish. Seeing a massive project completed from start to finish in less than three weeks, I have to give kudos to the three Amigos and WAC.”

Sorrentino, with the assistance of adjunct welding instructor Shane Ramnarine and three club members, designed, fabricated and painted a fourteen foot snow blade for the campus. The project started over Christmas break with everyone working countless hours to make this pusher ready for snow.

McHarris, Kopec and Sorrentino estimated saving the College approximately $3,000 to have this fabricated in house. McHarris says he was thankful for the loan of the front-end loader this winter.
The women’s basketball team is continuing to rock Central New York with its performance on the hardwood after capturing the NJCAA Region III championship this past weekend. The women’s basketball team will now advance to the NJCAA Division III National Tournament in Rochester, Mn. The team leaves on Tuesday and will not return until after the break.

In the first round of this past weekend’s tournament, the Hawks soared over SUNY Delhi 56-38 as freshman forward Samantha Corbitt dominated the boards to finish with 17 points. The next day, the women had little trouble dispatching Hudson Valley Community College with a 50-39 final. Once again it fell to a freshman to lead the charge as guard Ashley Cox was the top gun with 16 points.

The toughest challenge came in the championship game on Sunday against nationally ranked Onondaga Community College. Sophomore guard Isayra "Izzy" Diaz stepped up her game on the hardwood to lead the Women’s basketball team to victory. Last weekend, Diaz was the driving force behind the Hawks’ victorious capture of the NJCAA Region III Championship.

For her performance, she has been named MVCC’s Athlete of the Week for the second time this season. At the Region III tournament, Diaz was named Most Valuable Player.

Diaz, a sophomore Liberal Arts major, was also selected as the Mountain Valley Conference and Region III Player of the Year while leading the Hawks to the NJCAA National Championships. The Hawks are ranked No. 6 in the nation for Division III women’s basketball programs.

This season, Diaz has averaged 18.9 points per game along with 4.8 rebounds and 4.6 assists. She is a graduate of Richard Green High School of Teaching.

The Hawks are now 28-3 overall which includes a 17-2 Mountain Valley Conference record and a 26-2 Region III record. Receiving tournament honors was Corbitt and Diaz as All-Region III First Team Players. Diaz also was named Region III Tournament Most Valuable Player which goes nicely with her Player of the Year for the Mountain Valley Conference.

The Hawks are now 28-3 overall which includes a 17-2 Mountain Valley Conference record and a 26-2 Region III record. Making up this year’s team are Diaz, Corbitt, Cox, Carolina Concepcion, Meghan Lewis, Krystal Fluellen, Donna Barrington, Tayla Horne and Nicole Sook. Head coach is Jason Carpenter.
Michael Emmerich to wear many hats as Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations

One of the first lessons Michael E. Emmerich learning during his first week on the job is that his new position wears a lot of hats around campus.

“When you look at the college, you don’t realize the magnitude of what Facilities and Operations plays,” said Emmerich, “I didn’t realize the vastness of the campus here in Utica and then you add the Rome Campus, there is a lot going on.”

Emmerich is the College’s new Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations, replacing Mike McHarris who is now the Director of Facilities and Operations. He will be responsible for overseeing everything from grounds maintenance to facilities operations.

“The college has a very good preventative maintenance system in place already. I’m aiming to keep that system running smoothly while adding feedback to where improvements can be made,” said Emmerich, who is a New Hartford resident.

He brings more than 23 years of construction experience to the position, just as the College is working on expanding in different areas such as the athletic complex. Prior to coming to MVCC, Emmerich was the Senior Project Manager for G.M. Crisalli & Associates, Inc. in Syracuse since 2004. His experience extends to the Turning Stone Resort & Casino where he was Construction Project Manager during the Oneidas’ expansion.

Other experience includes two years as Commercial Project Manager for Masterpiece Builders in Stuart, Fl., a Project Manager for G.M. Crisalli & Associates, Inc. back in 2000, and an Estimator/Project Manager for Park City Builders of NY, Inc. in Hamilton.

“There has been a lot to learn in my first month here. Everything from learning names and faces to finding out who are the go-to people for certain projects. I know it will take a while to get fully up to speed, but every day something new is coming up and I know how to handle any of the issues.”

With the College pushing to “Go Green,” Emmerich will be challenged even further in researching what works while still remaining within budget. He has joined the College’s Sustainability Counsel in order to provide feedback and gain insight on what initiatives are being worked on.

Emmerich holds an Associate in Applied Science in Construction Technology from SUNY Delhi.

Decker, Keniston honored for their work at MVCC

Earlier this semester, two MVCC faculty members were honored with the Hawks Who Soar Award for January, 2001.

Receiving the Pride of the Hawk was Robert Decker from the Center of Mathematics, Physical Science, Engineering and Applied Technology. His co-workers gave him nothing but praise for his work both with students and helping to advance the Center. Here are some of the statements made about Robert Deckers:

“Bob consistently promotes learning, collaboration, excellence and integrity daily in his position.”

“He works tirelessly trying to bring new programming to MVCC.”

“He has served with colleagues on numerous National Science Foundation Grants, who often note what a pleasure it is to work with him.”

“He works hard and doesn’t look for accolades.”

“He cares about what is best for the College and that’s what he puts into action each day.”

“He produces only quality work and is often a source for advice and guidance for colleagues.”

Being presented the Heart of the Hawk Award from the Rome Campus was Pattina Keniston. She has been instrumental in launchings and making the Educational Sign Language Interpretation degree successful. Here are some of the statements made about her from her co-workers and students:

“She is devoted to her job as well as to her students.”

“Pattina has also had a huge influence in my life.”

“She has always had faith in me and what I am capable of doing.”

“I wouldn’t be where I am today without her guidance, support, and commitment to me as a student.”

“Someday I would like to fill her shoes and make her proud of everything I have become.”

“She has opened my eyes to bigger and better things.”

The deadline for the next Heart/Pride/and Aeries Award (for volunteer service) is April 22. To nominate someone who stands out at the College, go to mvcc.edu and click on Employee Recognition under the Employee Information drop down menu on the Faculty and Staff Page.