Jubenville helped shape MVCC

As the College nears its 66th anniversary, Robert Jubenville, Ph.D., has watched MVCC grow from a small local college into an important regional educational institution. As he heads into retirement this spring, Dr. Jubenville played a critical role in shaping what MVCC is today.

“Being at MVCC for 38 years has been great for me and very rewarding,” said Dr. Jubenville, who started at MVCC in September 1973 with a salary of $9,000. “One of my biggest challenges while at MVCC was adapting to the variety of personalities of the many vice presidents—at least eight—and trying to evaluate my talents to fit their strategic direction and hopefully give them some good years of administrative service and leadership.”

Back in 1973, MVCC consisted of five buildings catering to 2,200 students. Dr. Jubenville started out as a life science instructor when the laboratories were located on the first floor of Payne Hall and tuition was about $600 a year. He applied for the position of Life Science Department Head in 1979 which allowed him to steer the direction of the department.

“I thought I was pretty hot stuff when I got the department head position. That is, until I found out three others had passed on the job!” said Dr. Jubenville with a smile. “I attribute my success to my colleagues in the Life Science Department. The department has had colleagues who understand that working together is needed to make good things happen. Everyone is willing to go above and beyond for the students. I am most grateful to them for it has really been a team effort and they collectively made my years at MVCC most enjoyable.”

Dr. Jubenville got his first taste of academic life when he attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he was an accomplished student athlete. He attended Coe to wrestle and was fortunate to play football for legendary coach Marv Levy. He played defensive end for the Kohawks and through athletics learned the valuable lesson of teamwork. “Athletics in college proved to be important to me in understanding teamwork. Anyone who plays a sport has an advantage down the road of understanding the team effort approach,” said Dr. Jubenville. From Coe, Bob continued his education at Humboldt State University in Marine Biology and then received his Ph.D. in Developmental Physiology from the University of South Carolina.

Following graduation, and a year teaching at a prep school in Mobile Alabama, he applied to three upstate community colleges (Hudson Valley CC, Onondaga CC and MVCC) and was offered all three positions. MVCC was his college of choice due to its central location and the reputation of the Life Science Department. “Over the years we have hired a lot of good people in the sciences, with proven track records which is a real accomplishment. Without this group of individuals, I probably wouldn’t have stayed as department head and dean as long as I did,” said Dr. Jubenville.

Under his leadership, the Department continued to offer one of the most challenging Life Science programs for community colleges in the Northeast. “I think it is not that we are superior, it is just that we strive to make the curriculum for the first two years equivalent to any baccalaureate institution. The faculty does a great job with providing majors and non-majors with courses to fulfill their science requirements. We have made a practice of not offering a large number of biology courses but have concentrated on a dozen or so very solid offerings.”

Moving the labs in 1999 from PH to AB proved to be one of the department’s biggest challenges. With over 1000 boxes of materials and equipment the TA’s, faculty and facilities worked together to complete the move. “It worked out well and we were able to develop the cadaver lab as a unique facility. This was one of the reasons we made the decisions to move, in order to be the only community college in the state which has a full cadaver lab,” said Dr. Jubenville.

Dr. Jubenville has been honored many times for his work, winning two Chancellor’s Awards: Professional Service and Faculty Service. He was named as an honorary Phi Theta Kappa Society member and presented the Outstanding Instructional Service from the National Council of Instructional Administrators. Locally, the Mohawk Valley Science Teachers Association honored him for Outstanding Contribution to Science. As a 27 year member of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges they recently bestowed on him the 2010 Distinguished Service Award.

Upon entering retirement, Dr. Jubenville plans to remain involved in teaching online courses as well as finding time to do a bit more flying. He says he is also prepared for the “honey do” list his wife is creating, but that may have to take a backseat to spending time on his boat on Cayuga Lake.

“The reason I really enjoyed working at MVCC is that your day brings to you a variety of problems and something is always coming up to challenge you to use your talents and abilities to resolve these challenges,” said Dr. Jubenville. Dr. Jubenville indicated that he will miss working with a great group of colleagues but hopes to stay connected in one way or another.
MVCC community raises $5,018 for Japanese relief

In an effort to support Japan and the Japanese students attending MVCC in the wake of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, several organizations at the College collaborated to raise more than $5,000 which was presented to the American Red Cross on Friday, April 22.

The money was raised with a raffle hosted by MVCC’s Student Congress, Team MVCC, the Cultural Events Council and the MVCC International Club. The Japan Earthquake & Pacific Tsunami Relief Raffle sold tickets over a five-day period on both the Utica and Rome campuses.

Faculty, staff, students, and community members stepped forward to purchase the $1 tickets to raise the $5,018 to help those affected by the tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Jeff Parker, Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for the Utica Office of the American Red Cross, was on hand for the drawing and to receive the proceeds.

“This is an outstanding effort on the part of everyone at MVCC,” said Parker. “100 percent of every dollar raised is going to the Red Cross of Japan.”

The lead organizer of the event was MVCC Student Congress President Megan Vogt, a graduate of Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School. Items donated to be raffled off included Mini Karaoke Machine, Digital Camera and Printer, Mountain Bike, iPad, 50-inch flat screen TV, Playstation 3 and 15 gift certificates to area businesses.

Prize Item   Winners

Mini Karaoke Machine    Tiffany Cabrera
Japanese Basket         Krista Hartman
Digital Camera & Printer Sylvia Quick
Nook with $25 Gift Card Richard Marko
Sony Blu-Ray DVD         Kathleen Dunsavage
Playstation 3            Tess Goldsmith
Mountain Bike            Nicole DeTota
50” HD Television       Sue Halbritter
iPad                    Alison Doughtie
$1,000 Best Buy Gift Card Breanne Galler
Marquee Gift Card       Tess Goldsmith
$25                    Tao Lu

MVCC students attend PTK Convention

Earlier this month, 11 MVCC students and two advisors traveled to Seattle for the annual Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society International Convention.

The MVCC chapter joined more than 3,500 other attendees at the “Commit to Completion” themed convention which included not only an opportunity for students to pledge their individual commitment to completing their two-year degrees but also stressed the importance of them serving as campus leaders to help their colleges and other students as the nation works to reach the goal of 5 million additional graduates by 2020.

Throughout the convention, the students attended workshops aimed at helping individuals develop as leaders and scholars, and chapters to become more active. They met members from other chapters all over the country, heard keynote speakers including astrophysicist Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson and Hilary Pennington of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, elected new international officers, and visited some of the attractions that make Seattle famous.

Chesterfield’s $25 Mark Primack
The Savoy $25 Sue Halbritter
Teddy’s in Rome $25 Terry Kipers
99 Restaurant $25 Henry Auyeung
Outback Steakhouse $25 Rosemary Pastorella
Sumo’s Restaurant $25 Justin Bennett
Uno Chicago Grill $25 Christine Noffer
Symeon’s Restaurant $25 Marie Turzanski
MVCC Bookstore $50 Mike Hughes
Sodexo $100 Celia Domser
Big Apple Music $200 Todd Rankins
99 Restaurant $25 Joann Dickson
Marquette Gift Card $25 Russell Cole

Hands Across the Ocean - Student Congress President Megan Vogt, right, presents Jeff Parker, Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for the Utica Office of the American Red Cross, with a check for $5,000 which was raised last week during the Japan Earthquake & Pacific Tsunami Relief Raffle. In just five days, the MVCC community raised $5,018 to help those affected by the tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Hands Across the Ocean - Student Congress President Megan Vogt, right, presents Jeff Parker, Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for the Utica Office of the American Red Cross, with a check for $5,000 which was raised last week during the Japan Earthquake & Pacific Tsunami Relief Raffle. In just five days, the MVCC community raised $5,018 to help those affected by the tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Not Sleepless in Seattle - Members of the College’s Phi Theta Kappa attended a conference in Seattle earlier this month. Picture here are Carlos Pulquero, Ethan Martin, Nicole Kraeger, Trisha Calenzo, Olga Lukashevich, Ahsan Ali, and Amanda Ajaeb. Taessa Ogievich, Tiffany Hollingshead, LaToya Richardson and Cairelys Gonzalez also attended the convention. The advisors on the trip were Steve Frisbee and Liz Doherty.
MVCC EVENTS

**Monday, April 25**
1:00 pm - Cultural Series: Vietnam Panel Discussion, IT225
2:00 pm - Circle K, ACC 212
6:00 pm - Drinking and Driving Program, AB 306

**Tuesday, April 26**
4:30 pm - Drama Club, ACC 114
7:00 pm - Lecture (DGV): “Creating a World with More Birthdays” w/Don Distasio, CEO for the American Cancer Society, Theater

**Wednesday, April 27**
9:00 am - Guest Speaker from NBT Bank: Discussion on Basic Personal Finance, Festine Auditorium
Noon - Band “Gridley Page,” MV Commons
4:00 pm - Program Board, ACC 212
4:00 pm - Step Team Club, ACC 114
4:30 pm – LSU, IT 218
6:00 pm - Dinners with Distinction, Hospitality Dining Room
7:00 pm - Concert: Augustine, Theater
7:30 pm - MVCC Concert Band, ACC 116

**Thursday, April 28**
2:00 pm - MVCC Baseball vs. Herkimer CCC
3:00 pm - MVCC Softball vs. Finger Lakes CC

**Friday, April 29**
9:00 am - Placement Testing, PC 252
1:00 pm - MVCC Baseball vs. Clinton CC
1:00 pm - MVCC Women’s Lacrosse vs Niagara CC
3:30 pm – BSU, ACC 212
4:00 pm - Chess Club, ACC 114
6:00 pm - Lecture (DGV): “Black Male Symposium Part II”, w/ Tyrone Bledsoe, Ph.D., Theater
6:00 pm - Poetry Club, ACC 212

**Saturday, April 30**
9:00 am - Placement Testing, PC 252
1:00 pm - MVCC Baseball vs. Clinton CC
1:00 pm - MVCC Women’s Lacrosse vs Niagara CC
3:30 pm - MVCC Men’s Lacrosse vs. Niagara CC
3:30 pm - Movie: “Megamind,” Theater
5:00 pm - GSA “Pride Fest 2011,” MV Commons

**Athlete of the Week**

In its inaugural season, the Hawks Women’s Lacrosse team has proven to be formidable opponents as they have continued to win. Leading the Hawks has been Carol Ann Currado, who has 24 goals and two assists on the season.

Following her performance last week, she has been named MVCC’s Athlete of the Week for the week ending April 17. During last week’s action, Currado scored seven goals in two games as the Hawks improved to 4-3.

Currado is a freshman Liberal Arts major who graduated of Chittenango High School.

**MVCC on pace to win second NATYCAA Cup**

On the heels of MVCC winning its second NJCAA national championship this year, the Hawks’ athletic program is in first place in the standings for the National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) Cup heading into the spring season.

MVCC’s women’s cross country team won its national championship by placing five runners among the top 10 finishers and the women’s bowling teams won its national crown by dominating in the singles, doubles and team competition.

The NATYCAA Cup, first initiated in 2004, recognizes excellence and diversity in two-year college athletics. Points are awarded based on performance in national championship events. The Hawks won the inaugural Cup and has never finished lower than fourth place in the history of the award. MVCC currently has 91 points with the next closest program being seven points behind.

On the national level, MVCC had eight All-Americans along with National Coach of the Year honors during the Fall season. For the winter season, the Hawks had five All-Americans along with two National Coach of the Year honors.

**PREPARE FOR A JOB SEARCH** - Jennifer Squire and Jim Maio, from MVCC’s Career, Tranfer and Job Placement Services, presented “How to Prepare for a Job Search” during a DGV event on Tuesday, April 19, in IT225. They presented a PowerPoint presentation on resumes, cover letters, and interviewing skills. More than 100 students attended this timely presentation. The presentation was open to the entire college community with several classes attending. Squire said, “There has been an increase in the number of job opportunities posted through the college’s online service.”
Ms. Thanh learns American culture during visit

For the third time in as many years, MVCC is hosting a representative from its sister community college in Vietnam, Kien Giang Community College. On campus this spring has been Thai Ngoc Thanh who has been experiencing how American education is implemented.

“She has experienced a lot of firsts on this trip,” said Sandra A. Engel, Ph.D., Director of International Education. “This was her first experience of snow and she is surprised of the degree of informality both in and out of the classroom. In Vietnam, the president of the college doesn’t have to speak to faculty members and would never be called by his first name.”

Ms. Thanh is spending nine weeks in the United States, departing for home the day after MVCC’s commencement.

Some of the other experiences include visiting Alison Doughtie’s beginning English skills class while also teaching in the College’s CCED Learn Vietnamese course. Some of the meetings she has attended are the College Senate, Deans meeting, Student Congress, Student Services Council, and many more.

A reception was held for Ms. Thanh on Monday, March 28, where she sang tradition Vietnamese songs while also learning some traditional American songs like “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.”

“I have learned a lot in the time I have been here,” said Ms. Thanh. “Experience is the mother of wisdom and I hope to take a lot home with me.”

Another topic she has enjoyed learning about is the different styles of food in this country. Due to the diversity of cultures, she has tried many different foods and expected U.S. supermarkets to resemble an Asian market.

“She not only uses Skype to talk with her family back home, but also to connect with students and trying to explain her experiences,” said Dr. Engel. “She was prepared for the diversity, but couldn’t picture it until she was here. The size of the campus also surprised her.”

MVCC to host 2nd annual Black Male Symposium

MVCC will host “Brother, Take Control of Your Life,” its second annual Black Male Symposium this coming Thursday and Friday on the Utica Campus.

The free event will bring together educators and mentors with parents, clergy, community activists, and the men they support to focus on how young men of color can overcome educational and societal barriers to achieve success.

Powerful motivational and informational speakers will talk about such topics as education, community engagement, unemployment, drugs, sex, family, gangs, and violence. A keynote address will be given on “21st Century Issues for Men of Color” by Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe, founder and executive director of the Student African American Brotherhood, an organization seeking to instill a “spirit of care” and value for education among African-American men in high schools and colleges nationwide. Bledsoe also is a contributing author to the book, “African American Men in College.”

Symposium sessions will be held Thursday, April 28, from 1 to 5 p.m., with a banquet dinner served at 5:30 p.m.; and Friday, April 29, from 1 to 7:30 p.m., with Bledsoe’s keynote address at 6 p.m. Most sessions will be in Room 116 of the Alumni College Center; Bledsoe’s address will be in the IT Theater.

The Black Male Symposium will touch on topics of interest throughout the community, and is open to everyone. For more information about the symposium or to RSVP, e-mail jleandre@mvcc.edu.