

Mohawk Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter Spring 2012

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The Mohawk Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter

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A Message from the President

So many success stories get their start at Mohawk Valley Community College.

Whether they are leaders in health care, education, or public service, MVCC alumni make us proud every day as they make their mark on various industries right here in the Mohawk Valley and all over the world.

Our students come to us from all walks of life at various stages in their education. Some come to us with a clear-cut plan for their future. Others come to us looking for a plan and the help to make it happen. Many are traditional college students, fresh out of high school, ready to get an affordable, smart start to their college education. Others are adults returning to school for the first time in years, worried about feeling out of place and getting back into the groove of going to class, doing homework, and studying for tests.

All of our students are writing their own success stories, and we are here to help them find their way. In this issue, you will read about an alumna who is now running a local company with global reach; a local school superintendent who got his important start at MVCC; a chiropractor and motivational speaker who didn't let a disability slow her down; and a returning adult student who went on to help many area women find their way in the workforce.

Then there are the successes that the College itself is celebrating. Read about our state-recognized cybersecurity program that is bringing free training to companies and individuals in the Mohawk Valley, and our nationally recognized Diversity and GlobalView initiative, which is bringing a new awareness of the world to all MVCC students.

MVCC is proud to be a common denominator in so many success stories, and we look forward to hearing yours.

Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.

President



MVCC gave Presidential Scholar an early start, strong support system

Dr. Sherry Anne Lints '93 has never been one to let obstacles stand in her way.

Born with a bilateral hearing and speech impairment, Lints was 5 years old before a school nurse detected that she had significant hearing loss in both of her ears. She was enrolled in a school for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, but even at such a young age, Lints felt it wasn't right. She told her mother she didn't want to be in a special school, and began a mainstream education.

With the help of hearing aids, speech therapy, note takers, and tutors, Lints went on to excel in elementary and high school, graduating in the top 10 of her class at Thomas R. Proctor High School in Utica, which earned her a full-tuition Presidential Scholarship to MVCC. Lints also took advantage of the Magnet Bridge program between the Utica City School District and MVCC, which allowed her to take a full schedule of classes at MVCC during her senior year of high school.

"Because I was accelerated in high school, MVCC's Bridge program let me start college one year earlier and get a head start on my career, something I am very grateful for," Lints says. MVCC also provided a strong support system that helped her achieve her goals.

"I had to overcome the obstacles and challenges involved with a hearing impairment," she says. "Being in a relatively smaller school gave me a better learning environment and more one-on-one time with my teachers. Services were available when I needed them, including taking a course on reading comprehension to help me focus when reading."

Lints also was faced with a common conundrum for many first-year college students: What major to choose.

"When I started college, I was undecided on exactly what career path I would choose," she says. "Being at MVCC allowed me to experiment with different classes and different programs to see which direction was best."

Lints decided to pursue a career in holistic medicine and natural healing. She graduated from MVCC in 1993 before going on to earn her bachelor's degree from Utica College in 1995, and her doctorate from New York Chiropractic College in 1998. She says her time at MVCC helped prepare her for her future education and career, which has brought her all over the world and introduced her to all kinds of people.

"I really enjoyed the professors at MVCC," she says. "They had us doing everything from proving the existence of God—which I did, by the way—to defining 'normal' by assigning various unnerving sociological experiments, to calling them by their first name. They were all over the

map, and it exposed me to a variety of teaching styles and philosophies."

Lints now owns and operates Better Health Chiropractic in Utica. Licensed in three states, she is certified as a fitness trainer and has met and worked with people from a multitude of backgrounds, including celebrities like Arnold Schwarzenegger. She frequently lectures at elementary schools, vocational schools, and colleges, and has been a regular speaker for the "Dare, Dream, Do" outreach program for inner-city children. Her own disability has given her a special love for children with disabilities, and she finds great joy in speaking for them and sharing her love of music and drama with them through Sherry Anne Lints Ministries (www.sherryanne.com). She will be releasing her second album this spring, and performs often at churches, coffeehouses, women's conferences, youth retreats, seminars, and other venues.

As a frequent speaker at high schools and colleges, Lints often finds herself giving advice to students who may be going through experiences similar to those she has faced.

"My advice to MVCC students is to work hard and have fun doing so," she says. "Make friends but stay focused on your goals. Explore classes and clubs—get involved in your school and make it home for you. As you pursue higher degrees, the price tag increases exponentially, so use your time at MVCC to try out as many career programs, classes, and ideas that you are interested in. It will help you like it helped me decide"

MVCC honored for Diversity & Global View initiative

Mohawk Valley Community College is one of two first-place winners of the National Council of Instructional Administrators' Exemplary Initiatives Award for 2012.

The College's initiative, "Diversity and Global View: The World in Community" was the co-winner in the category of Curriculum and Program Innovation at the April International Conference on College Teaching and Learning. MVCC was honored for its DGV requirement and its support of that requirement with a robust and exciting Cultural Series events calendar.

The College began the DGV initiative in 2008 in an effort to raise student awareness of the increasingly diverse, globalized environment we live in. The program requires all degree- and certificate-seeking students to complete certain courses and tutorials, as well as attend designated events on campus that explore diverse cultures and ideas, providing rich opportunities for learning and understanding.

MVCC helping to create healthier communities

As the health care industry continues to grow, MVCC is staying ahead of the curve, expanding its program offerings and improving the technology students can use in learning.

The College has a long, proud tradition of educating nurses for the local workforce, and it is now working to expand or redevelop its program offerings in health professions where demand for employees is expected to grow in the coming years. These include the allied health fields of surgical technology, medical assisting, coding and billing, and radiologic technology.

“Our community’s health care needs are growing and changing faster than ever, and employers’ demand for skilled workers and the career opportunities in health care are growing, as well,” says MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. “MVCC is perfectly positioned to educate and train workers for these high-demand jobs in the health care field.”

Combining medical technology and the human touch, the health care industry diagnoses, treats, and administers care around the clock, responding to the needs of millions of people — from newborns to the terminally ill. The industry encompasses establishments ranging from large hospitals and nursing care facilities to doctors’ offices, home health care, and ambulatory health care services. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the industry is expected to generate 3.2 million new wage and salary jobs in the decade ending in 2018, more than any other industry, largely in response to rapid growth in the elderly population.

Among the most popular health care vocations are those in allied health, a cluster of health professions exclusive of doctors and nurses. These professionals tend to work in teams. They provide a range of diagnostic, technical, therapeutic, and direct patient care, as well as support services that are critical to the other health professionals they work with and the patients they serve. MVCC offers several programs, from specialty certifications to associate degrees, and plans to add more to meet demand.

“The future for allied health professions in general is exploding,” says Mark Williams, instructor of allied health at MVCC. “The growth rate is phenomenal and is forecast to increase substantially over the next few years because of the advent of the baby boomers getting older. The projected growth rate for all allied health professions is in the 20th percentile, which is quite large.”

Investments by some of MVCC’s community partners have helped the College expand its role as an educator of health professionals in the region in order to meet the needs of local health care providers, consumers, and employees. A donation by First Source Federal Credit Union is being used to support additional programs and services for MVCC’s nursing and allied health students on the Utica campus, such as the new nursing and allied health computer lab, and related technological resources. A donation by Rome Memorial Hospital has allowed the College to improve its Rome campus with an upgraded Nursing Learning Resource Center and upgraded Surgical Technician and Certified Nurse Aid laboratories. The gift also creates additional Rome Hospital placements for MVCC students, and new faculty and staff to support the expanded programs.

“MVCC is to be commended for preparing exceptional nursing and health care professionals to serve our community’s needs,” says Rome Memorial Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Basil J. “Buzz” Ariglio. “MVCC alumni are in vital roles as caregivers and support staff throughout Rome’s hospital and nursing home. Our hospital and our patients directly benefit from having a well-educated workforce.”

MVCC is also looking to expand its health services program offerings to include an associate degree in Health Information Technology and certificates in phlebotomy and clinical laboratory assistant, programs that are currently being revised to conform to new standards.

“These investments by our valued partners at Rome Memorial Hospital and First Source Federal Credit Union will enable us to better meet students’ needs — and to better prepare students to meet the needs of employers in our region,” VanWagoner says. “MVCC is at the forefront of health care education, and we are committed to making sure our students are well-prepared with a combination of classroom education and real-world experience out in the field.”

Graduates of MVCC’s health programs say that the hands-on experience they received during their clinical placements was key to their success in “real world” settings.

“Getting to work in the environment of the hospital every day and interact with people who do the work you’re interested in is really eye-opening,” says Evan Buel ’11, a graduate of MVCC’s Surgical Technology program. “It really shows you all of the possibilities.”



MVCC alumni in key medical roles

MVCC alumni are leaders in local health care. Here are a few:

Patricia Roach '88, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare

Colette Wilk '87, Director of Clinical Education, Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare

Randy Johnson '86, Director of Respiratory Care, Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare

Janine Carzo '75, Vice President of Assisted Living Services for Cedarbrook at Sitrin

Marc DePerno '94, Director, Sitrin STARS Program

Douglas Gleasman '92, Director, St. Elizabeth School of Radiology

Mary Parry '81, Director of Cardiopulmonary Services, Oneida Healthcare



Jennifer Klimek-Yingling '93, MS, ARNP

Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare

Nurse Educator, SUNYIT

“Whenever I look back on choices I’ve made for my future, one of my most positive choices was to attend the nursing program at Mohawk Valley Community College. The nurse leaders at MVCC laid a solid foundation with state-of-the-art nursing skills, scientific knowledge, and an emphasis on integrity and compassion. These core competencies have been applied to every aspect of my nursing practice, and have served me well from staff registered nurse to advanced practice nurse.”



Phil Nelson '87, SSGT, RRT

United States Army Reserves

Respiratory Therapist, Oneida Healthcare

Nelson has served three military tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait in the Army as a respiratory therapist

“The education I received in the Respiratory Therapy program at MVCC was outstanding. My courses were taught by gifted, caring professors, and I have been able to use that knowledge base as both a respiratory therapist and a staff sergeant in the United States Army Reserves. MVCC is an exceptional asset to this area.”

To learn more about MVCC's Health Services programs, visit <http://www.mvcc.edu/nursing/health-sciences-programs>.

Pattarini:

MVCC encouraged me to keep learning

For Nancy M. Pattarini '75, president and CEO of Paige Marketing & Communications Group Inc. in Utica, Mohawk Valley Community College gave her the chance to test and mold her interests, giving her a solid base for further education, and eventually, her career.

“I came to MVCC with a broad range of interests in communications, marketing and management,” she says. “At the time I felt I needed to quickly choose a specific career path, so I joined the Advertising Design & Production program.”

Pattarini says she enjoyed the program, but her interests kept evolving. Luckily, MVCC provided her with the flexibility and opportunity to explore different topics and areas of study.

“Thankfully, I received great encouragement and assistance to continue learning,” she says. “I was able to fine-tune my interests thanks to the mentoring of MV faculty, staff and classmates.”

While at MVCC, Pattarini worked as a resident assistant in the dorms. She recalls this as one of her most memorable experiences at the College.

“Being an RA was a fantastic growing and learning experience,” she says. “We received training in counseling and how to work effectively as a team.”

Pattarini graduated from MVCC in 1975 with an AAS in Advertising Design & Production, then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in public relations from Utica College, and she still hasn't stopped learning.



“There is not one thing you will ever learn — not one — that does not have value and will not prove an asset as you develop your life and career,” she says. “I’ve changed major courses of study, taken unusual and somewhat obscure continuing education courses; I even became a welder through MVCC. I am always amazed at how often there is opportunity to draw on this knowledge and how much it has enriched my life”

Pattarini began her career in non-profit public relations before moving to corporate communications for a worldwide computer manufacturing firm. She joined The Paige Group in 1986 as director of account services, became a partner in the firm in 1990, and was appointed CEO in 2003. In this role, she leads the firm's planning and business development efforts and works directly with key accounts. The agency specializes in developing unified communications and marketing initiatives for a broad range of clients in the Mohawk Valley and around the world. She has won numerous awards, including the 1999 MVCC Alumnus of Merit Award.

In 2006, Pattarini received her master's degree in communications management from Syracuse University. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in conflict analysis and resolution at Nova Southeastern University.



MVCC educating the region's educators

MVCC has educated some of the most effective educators in the Mohawk Valley, including alumni who are now leading local school districts through some of the most challenging times in recent history.

In Oneida County alone, MVCC has four alumni in superintendent roles: Dr. Jeffrey K. Bryant '76, of the Camden Central School District; Robert J. Nole '88, of the New Hartford Central School District; David Langone '75, of the Whitesboro School District; and Bruce J. Karam '82, of the Utica City School District.

"MVCC was the first building block in my education," Karam says. "It gave me a strong foundation on which to earn my bachelor's and master's degrees. I would go back to MVCC today if I could do it all over again."

Karam, a lifelong Utica resident, was named superintendent of the Utica district on Sept. 6, 2011, but he has been working in the district in various capacities for 22 years. He spent several years as a teacher before serving two assistant principalships, then as principal at John F. Kennedy Middle School in North Utica.

Under Karam's leadership, JFK went from being a school "in need of improvement," meaning it failed to meet state standards, to being placed on New York State's list of most improved and high-performing schools. In 2003, JFK was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education, an honor bestowed only on the highest performing schools throughout all 50 states. The progress made by JFK earned Karam the title of 2006 New York State Middle Level Principal of the Year from the School Administrators Association of New York State and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Having so much time invested in the district has made Karam very aware of the issues his students face. While an assistant principal at Thomas R. Proctor High School, he saw a need to help students struggling to finish high school because of work or family obligations.

"We have high-poverty and high-needs students," Karam says. "Some of these kids have part-time jobs they have to work in the morning because their families are depending on them. A one-size educational model doesn't necessarily fit all, so we have to look hard to find solutions that can work for everyone."

One solution that Karam was instrumental in getting off the ground was Proctor's night school program, an innovative approach to keeping at-risk students in school.

"The goal was to offer an alternative to students who could benefit from a different pathway," he says. "We put together a schedule of classes, and before you knew it, it started to grow. We have about 80 to 100 graduates a year from the night school. There was a definite need there."

Finding innovative ways to help students carve out their own path to success is something that the Utica School District and MVCC have been working together on for decades with the Magnet Bridge Program, a competitive scholarship offered to high school students who have excelled academically. Successful candidates spend their senior year of high school taking a full schedule of college classes at MVCC. Students get to experience a college campus, engage in a higher level of study, and earn credits that can be transferred to most colleges and universities. Tuition and fees are covered by the Utica City School District Magnet Office.

"The Bridge program with MVCC is one of the City of Utica's crown jewels," Karam says. "This gives our students the opportunity to experience a college campus without leaving home. They are able to grow an interest in certain majors for when they are ready to go to college."

Karam said the district is trying to grow the program so more students have the opportunity.

"The success stories are phenomenal," he says. "It starts building an interest, and lets these kids know that if they continue their education, there is so much more they can do."

More recently, MVCC and the district are collaborating on GEAR-UP, a grant-funded program to enhance high school readiness for college math and science.

As an alumnus, Karam can attest to the value and quality of an education from MVCC.

"A strong start can determine a student's academic success, and MVCC provided that start for me," he says. "I had so many outstanding professors there, and when I see the ways the college has grown, with new facilities and new programs, I know that MVCC will continue to start many future success stories."

CyberJobs program receives statewide recognition

MVCC's CyberJobs cybersecurity training program has been awarded the James C. Hall Jr. Exemplary Program Award from the Continuing Education Association of New York in its first year of operation.

"This award recognizes the outstanding work being done by our staff to help so many students in a short period of time," says Jake Mihevc, director of the cybersecurity training program. "This is an indicator of more good things to come for MVCC, we are quickly becoming the premier community college for cybersecurity."

The CyberJobs program is an opportunity for trainees to earn certifications and enhanced skills in the principles of cybersecurity and networking. These classes prepare students for employment and provide skills in the area of defending networks against intrusions and malicious software at no cost to them or their company. The program is funded by a \$2.8 million, three-year Community Based Job Training grant from the Department of Labor, which runs through July 2013. MVCC is partnered with the Utica School of Commerce, SUNYIT, Herkimer County Community College, SUNY Morrisville, The Griffiss Institute, ITT Exelis, and more than 40 other organizations to service students from Madison, Oneida, Herkimer, Lewis, Chenango, and Onondaga counties.

The goal is to train 2,500 participants over three years in cybersecurity and information technology with graduates of the program being in a better position to take advantage of employment opportunities in the growing cybersecurity sector in the Mohawk Valley. MVCC has already trained 1,000 students through its program.

"CyberJobs has been and continues to be a local success story," says MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. "In tough times, this is a field where an investment in training is likely to pay dividends to future employment. MVCC is proud to be an innovator in this field, bringing important training to local businesses and to the local workforce."

Industries that benefit from the training include health care, power grid management, green technologies and more. Instructors prepare students in mathematics, operating systems, network fundamentals, security, and computer science. Certification options range from a basic training certificate to the advanced CompTIA credentials sought by today's employers.

Along with Mihevc, the CyberJobs team includes Nicole Kotary and Sarah (Gatley) Barcomb, Cybersecurity Career Specialists, and Denise Buczek, Administrative Assistant. The CyberJobs program is located on MVCC's Rome Campus.

"We take great pride in the success of our program," says Mihevc. "Training slots are still available at all levels, so we encourage people to take advantage of the program through 2013."

To learn more about the CyberJobs program, call 315-334-7780 or visit www.mvcc.edu/cyberjobs.





MVCC first step in a 'great journey' for Moran

For Eleanor (Ellie) Moran '84, the road to her true calling was anything but conventional.

She returned to MVCC part-time as an adult student and mother. It had been years since she sat in a classroom and took notes or tests, had to write papers, or do homework.

"There were many obstacles along the way," says the executive director of the Women's Employment & Resource Center, Inc. (WERC), an agency committed to helping women move to financial independence and self-sufficiency. "As a mom, I had the challenges of a washing machine flood at the same time class was starting. There was the car that wouldn't start, and a phone call to my sister for an emergency ride. There was a long absence from studying and the challenge of balancing home responsibilities and homework. Often they seemed one and the same."

Being older than the rest of the students in her classes also took some adjustment for Moran. She says at first it was tough to blend in with a classroom full of students talking about the weekend's party, but she embraced such differences and found her own ways to cope.

"My thoughts were what was for dinner, when would I buy the groceries, or who needed clothes the next day," Moran says. "I was keenly aware that my fellow students did NOT want a 'mother' watching over them. They simply wanted a classmate who would work with them, so I had to check my maternal hat at the door."

Moran says that while she may have been worried about what the younger students thought of her, she too had to learn acceptance, and what she, as an adult, could bring to the table for her classmates.

"Being a generation away from their perceptions, I had to be accepting, non-judgmental, and non-obtrusive," she says. "We had to work together as a team in every sense. And being adults, we can often bring real-life experiences into the classroom that not only make education fun, but bring it to life."

Another thing that helped her acclimate to being back in school was taking on a full-time class schedule.

"Starting part-time it seemed as the journey to completion would never end," Moran says. "Once I matriculated and attended full-time I found that I could better see the big picture. When I was finally handed my degree I felt an enormous sense of accomplishment along with the hunger to continue. I knew that was just the first step in what was to be a great journey."

Moran says that her time at MVCC is what started her on that journey, which ultimately led to her helping so many women move forward in their lives.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in education and business management, Moran taught for a short time before going back to school for her master's degree in business management and human resources, which led to her current position.

"I was fortunate to have entered the not-for-profit world," she says. "All thanks to the strong base I received at MVCC."

Moran has been the executive director of WERC for 20 years, beginning as a trainer/facilitator before moving into the position of director. As the center evolved into an independent not-for-profit, her role transitioned into that of executive director. She will retire from the center this year, after making a difference in so many lives. Her selfless work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Metro BPW-Utica Outstanding Woman of Achievement Award, the ZONTA Club of Utica Award for Advancement of the Status of Women, the YWCA Salute to Outstanding Women Award for Human and Public Service, and the MVCC Alumnus of Merit Award.

"My advice to current MVCC students is to keep their minds open to learning from each other," Moran says. "One of my favorite pieces of advice to my clients is to always be like a sponge, ready to absorb and grow with knowledge."



Golf Tournament to benefit Presidential Scholarship

The MVCC Foundation will hold its 26th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 18, at Valley View Golf & Country Club in Utica. Tee-off will take place at 1 p.m.

This year, the tournament will benefit the full-tuition Presidential Scholarship fund. The Presidential Scholarship provides Oneida County students graduating in the top 10 percent of their high school class the opportunity to attend MVCC on a full-tuition scholarship, less any financial aid received. Endowing this scholarship will help MVCC give more students rich opportunities close to home.

For more information, please call 315-792-5555.



Greetings from the Alumni Association

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the MVCC Alumni Association president. As a board member I have seen the association grow under the direction of David Mathis, and I want to continue that momentum. If you have any questions or concerns for the board, please direct them to Marie Kohl, coordinator of alumni relations and annual giving, at mkohl@mvcc.edu or 315.792.5340.

We have some exciting events coming up for our alumni and students. The Annual Alumni Art Show is currently on display in the Academic Building on the Utica Campus. The show was started in 1987 by Bob Clarke and other MVCC art faculty as a way for graduates to display the work they've created after graduating from college and beginning their careers. The show will be on display until Commencement on May 18.

This year's Commencement speaker will be civil rights activist Morris Dees, co-founder and chief trial counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center in Alabama. We are very excited that MVCC is able to bring speakers of this caliber to address our graduates.

The Alumni Association had been looking for a way to honor MVCC's graduating seniors, so last year we worked with the Career and Transfer Services Office to develop GradWeek, a week filled with fun activities sponsored by student groups, as well as informational events sponsored by college offices.

Other events include the annual Theodore "Ted" Moore 5-kilometer Run/Walk on May 5, and the Foundation's annual Golf Tournament on June 18. For more information on either of these events, please call the Foundation office at 315.792.5555.

I would like to extend my personal thank-you to all of the donors who so generously give to MVCC. Without you we would not be able to provide the scholarships and educational resources that are so important to our students' success. You are helping to change lives!

Sincerely,
Eugene Militello '84 President
MVCC Alumni Association

Planned Giving:

Your Opportunity to Shape the Future of Our Community

For students, going to college creates new opportunities and connections. Likewise, gift planning creates opportunities for forward-thinking charitable investors. It is a way to connect deeply and forever with your college and your community. Planning with the MVCC Foundation allows you to meet student needs today and tomorrow while also meeting your personal financial objectives. It allows you to make gifts beyond what you thought would be possible.

When you give, be confident that you will be supporting MVCC's future ability to produce graduates ready to compete in a changing world—and that you can help secure your family's long-term goals. Planned giving is the smart way for you to join the select group of thoughtful, caring community members who are investing in local students' futures.

Do you care to know more?
Contact us today:
The MVCC Foundation Inc.
1101 Sherman Drive
Utica, NY 13501
315-792-5555





Class Notes

1940s

Stanley Bergman '48 retired from NYS tax department in 1988, and in 2012 from the Boy Scouts of America where he was a purchasing manager.

Albert Lasda '49 currently excels in great health. After the service in WWII, and after marrying a great girl out of his country of Latvia (where his parents are originally from), he and his wife, Ilga, raised three fine boys, who are all doing well and have children of their own.

1950s

David Martin '52 is retired and resides in Florida. He says that although he went on to earn further degrees and continue his studies, he is always astonished by the fact that the knowledge obtained from MVCC has always been his most useful.

Edward Rice '52 retired from Special Metals Corp. in 1994 where he was a designer.

Kenneth Rhodes '54 has been retired from ING® since September 1993 and enjoys his retirement very much. He graduated in 1954 from MVCC in Mechanical Technology, and in 1968 from MVCC in Electrical Technology.

Elaine Owens '58 enjoys being a Card Specialist for Hallmark at Walgreens. She has two daughters, one son-in-law, one son and girlfriend, four granddaughters, and one grandson-in-law. She still sings and plays the piano and organ.

1960s

Russell Wuest '60 retired from Lockheed Martin Corporation, and now is a sales representative for pre-owned cars at Tri-Village Automotive.

Vernon Singleton '62 has three children, five grandchildren, and two great grandsons. Vernon still snowmobiles and skis, and is very active with NYS Elks Association.

Charles N. Smith '63 graduated from Mohawk Valley Community College with an associate degree in Advertising. Charles then went on to earn his B.F.A. from the Ringling School of Art in 1967, his M.F.A. from Guanajuato University San Miguel Mexico in 1972, and worked as an Assistant Professor at Brenau University in Gainesville, Ga.

Rosanne Falzarine '65 has retired from the most successful women's clothing store in the Hudson Valley. She traveled all over the world collecting merchandise for the store, which she was a part of for 45 years.

Robert Benz '66 retired from Xerox Corporation.

Nicholas Brescia '66 turned 65 this year and is still active using his computer for the arts, model building and home remodeling.

Stephen Riordan '67 has retired after 35 years at Rome Cable Corp. and another seven years at ECR International. Stephen is enjoying retirement with his wife, Victoria. He says, "Life is good, and so was my A.A.S. from MVCC."

1970s

Elaine Zurek '70 received the Finance and Accountancy Award of Excellence in 2011.

Kenleigh Nelson '70 says, "The most memorable (meaningful) event during my time at MVCC was the Kent State Shooting protest. I am very proud of my participation in that protest, which is my very first. Lately I have participated in Occupy Portland, the 99% movement. I am equally proud of my involvement in this."

Nancy Oswald '71 is currently working in endoscopy at Stony Brook University Medical Center in Long Island. She is the proud parent of a son, who is attending W.P.I. in Massachusetts, where he is studying chemistry.

Janet Rumbutis '71 is a retired art teacher from Whitesboro Central School, and is a substitute teacher for Whitesboro and New Hartford schools. She belongs to a co-op of 38 artists, called the Artisan Corner, and is an active board member for The Salvation Army and The Players of Utica. Janet and her husband own a carriage house in Naples, Fla.

Gerard LaMott '72 received his BSME from the University of Central Florida in 1981, worked at Kennedy Space Center as a Configuration Manager from 1981 to 2010, and retired after 29 years. He has been working part-time as a Construction Project Manager since his retirement.

Russell Shaver '73 retired in 2007 as regional construction inspector for NYS region four hazardous waste removal. In 2010 he started working with NYS homeland security office of emergency management. He helps applicants with public assistance after declared disasters.

Guy Edwards '73 retired as Catholic Chaplain for New York Dept. of Corrections and now appointed as Parroquial Vicar at St John's Church in Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Cheryl-Leigh Noh (Fisher) '73 has been living in Virginia since 2003, after having returned from a 10-year tour as Chief Illustrator for the 34th SOG in Yongsan, Korea. She now designs military insignia for all branches of the service and executive corps. She works on projects ranging from ROTC, JROTC, AF shields, to hand calligraphy on all General Officer Certificates of Promotion Sheepskins. She designs all executive office seals, ships seals, unit flags, and Coats of Arms. Cheryl-Leigh says, "Any graduates from my class please feel welcome to email me at CLNoh@hotmail.com."

Alison Tipple '76 retired as a physical education teacher. She taught P.E. K-12 at Mohawk Central School.

Randy Loboda '76 graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice. From 1976 to 1983 he was involved in active duty for the U.S. Air Force, and has been with the Dallas Police Department since 1983. On May 14, 2011, he graduated from Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas, with a BAAS degree in Applied Arts and Sciences.

Mary Lou Mahar-Meagher '76 received a BA in Biochemistry at Russell Sage College after graduation from MVCC. She moved to San Diego, Calif., in 1979 and worked for several years as a lab tech and pharmaceutical sales representative. In 1986 she began working in property management, and continues to do so with her husband. They both manage apartment buildings in San Diego, Sacramento, El Paso, and Albuquerque.

John Capron '76 is employed by IBM as a technical team leader of the Americas Level II Support Team for the IBM BT/IT CIO run organization.

Patti Kanik (McDaniel) '77 is a Special Educator at Kearsarge School District, and lives in the Dartmouth-Lake Sunapee Region in New Hampshire.

Michael Sala '78 is retired and lives in Florida. He enjoyed his two years at MVCC and found them to be very beneficial.

Paul Ventura '78 owns and operates Ventura's Catering and has been a food service director for Greenville Central School for 25 years. He has three children and one grandchild on the way. He would love to hear from alumni in Advertising Design and Production 1978, especially from a lady

who shares his birthday.

Daniel Strobel '78 is completing his seventh year with Briggs & Stratton as a Material Specialist.

Helen Betzenhauser '79 has five grandchildren in Oklahoma. She is also the owner of HCB Tax and Accounting Services.

1980s

Barbara Barry '80 is an Athletic Director, PE and health teacher at Giffit Hill School.

Elizabeth Post '84 went to Europe and visited France, Sweden, Monaco, Italy, Austria, and Germany during the summer of 2011. In February 2012 she went "island hopping" in Hawaii. She has traveled to all but 17 states and is planning a trip to Ireland and Scotland.

Ann Conway '85 graduated from Mohawk Valley Community College with an associate degree in Human Services. Ann decided to continue her education and earned her B.S. in Occupational Therapy from Dominican College in 1996, her advanced master's from Quinnipiac University in Occupational Therapy in 2010, and is presently enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Boston University.

Linda Welch '87 is the owner of Sacredbelly: Resource Center for Conscious Parenting. Services include: teaching infant massage to dads, postpartum services, pre-natal yoga, and much more. Her company website is www.TheNaturalBirth.com.

Kristen Delaney '88 recently was promoted to Regional Market Manager at Clear Channel Media & Entertainment, overseeing radio broadcasting operations in multiple markets.

Anthony Arcuri '89 earned his BA from Syracuse University in 1993.

Linda Zielinski '89 is a self-employed graphic designer since 1996 at Integrity Graphic Designs. She loves design, and her decision to start her own business has been very rewarding with hundreds of enjoyable client jobs, which include logos, corporate identity, direct mail, newsletters, brochures, annual reports, newspaper companies, and more. She also says "Hello" to Bob Clarke, one of her favorite teachers from the 1980s.

1990s

Willie Burrell '92 thinks Jacksonville is a good place to live; he enjoys the weather and has good Christian friends. He is also the Deacon in his church.

Jodi Miller '94 and her husband, Michael Dolan, have two children ages 7 and 4. She has worked in the New York Unified Court System since May 2008.

Joyce Leone '96 has an 18-year-old daughter who plans on enrolling at MVCC in 2012.

Carolyn Brown '97 retired as case manager in 2010 and enjoys both local and international travel.

2000s

Kevin Ryan '04 has a 2-year-old son, and his wife works in the medical field. He is the manager of a construction firm in North Carolina.

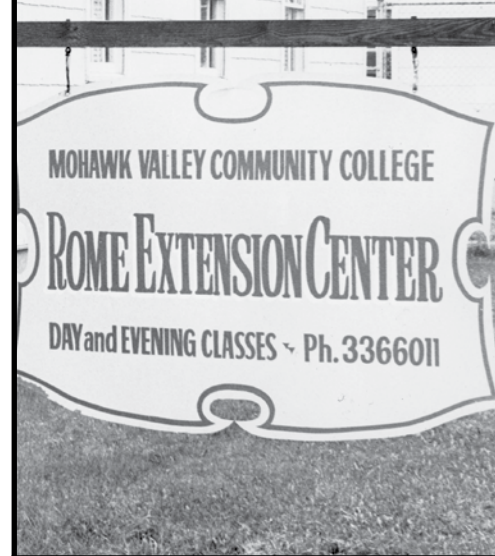
Cheryl Colvin-Comes '04 was hired two years at Operation Par in Bradenton, Fla. She acknowledges Mohawk Valley Community College as her contributing factor to her current employment. The Facility Director at Operation Par was aware of MVCC's outstanding reputation, and knew Cheryl had received an education in additions that would enhance and compliment her position as Substance Abuse Counselor. Cheryl is grateful for her educational experience from MVCC.

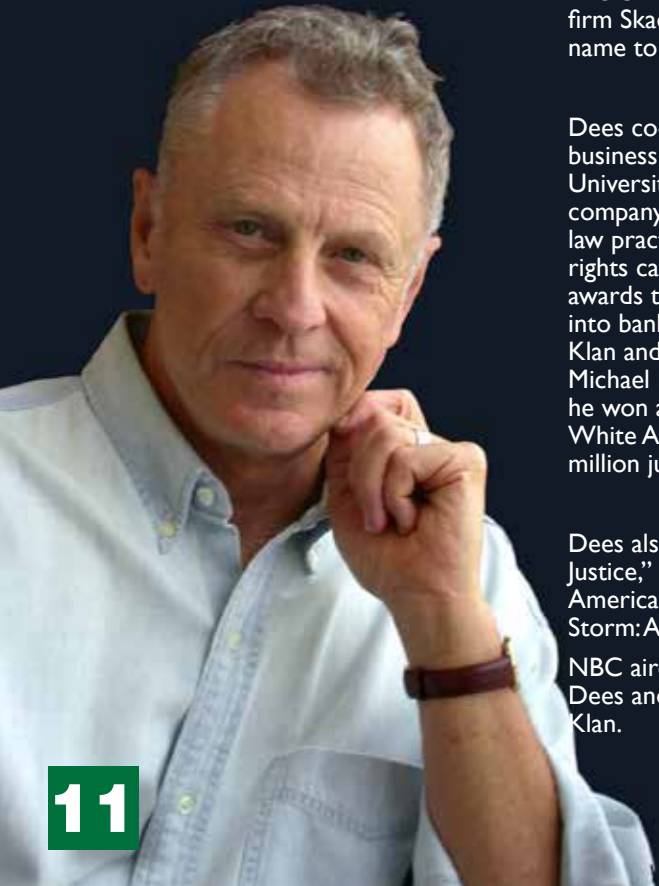
Stephen Isaac '05 has recently published a novel titled "Until We Die" through Infinity Publishing. The novel can be found on Amazon.com by searching the title. Stephen's Facebook page is www.facebook.com/Stephen_R_Isaac.

Michelle Heyes '07 is a Web designer and graphic designer for the New York State and Local Retirement System. Michelle recently got engaged.

Karen Serianni '08 formerly known as Karen Brown, works at Brown & Brown Utica-Rome as a Technical Specialist.

Send Class Notes to Marie Kohl, Coordinator of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, Mohawk Valley Community College, 1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY 13501, or via email at mkohl@mvcc.edu





Breaking News:

Civil rights activist Dees to speak at May commencement

Mohawk Valley Community College is pleased to announce that civil rights activist Morris Dees, co-founder and chief trial counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center in Alabama, will be the speaker for the college's May commencement on Friday, May 18 at 4 p.m., at the Utica Memorial Auditorium, 400 Oriskany St. W., Utica. Alumni are invited to attend.

Known for innovative lawsuits that crippled some of America's most notorious hate groups, Dees has received many accolades and awards, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award from the National Education Association, the Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice, and Trial Lawyer of the Year from Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. The University of Alabama Law School and the New York law firm Skadden, Arps jointly created an annual award in Dees' name to honor a lawyer devoted to public service work.

Dees co-founded the SPLC in 1971 after a successful business and law career. While still a student at the University of Alabama, Dees started a direct mail sales company specializing in book publishing. He launched his law practice in 1960, winning a series of groundbreaking civil rights cases. Dees' cases have involved landmark damage awards that have driven several prominent neo-Nazi groups into bankruptcy. In 1981, he successfully sued the Ku Klux Klan and won a \$7 million judgment for the mother of Michael Donald, a black lynching victim in Alabama. In 1991, he won a judgment of \$12 million against Tom Metzger's White Aryan Resistance, and in 2001 he helped secure a \$6.5 million judgment against the Aryan Nation.

Dees also is the author of three books: "A Season For Justice," his autobiography; "Hate on Trial: The Case Against America's Most Dangerous Neo-Nazi"; and "Gathering Storm: America's Militia Threat." In 1991,

NBC aired a made-for-TV movie called "Line of Fire" about Dees and his landmark legal victories against the Ku Klux Klan.

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