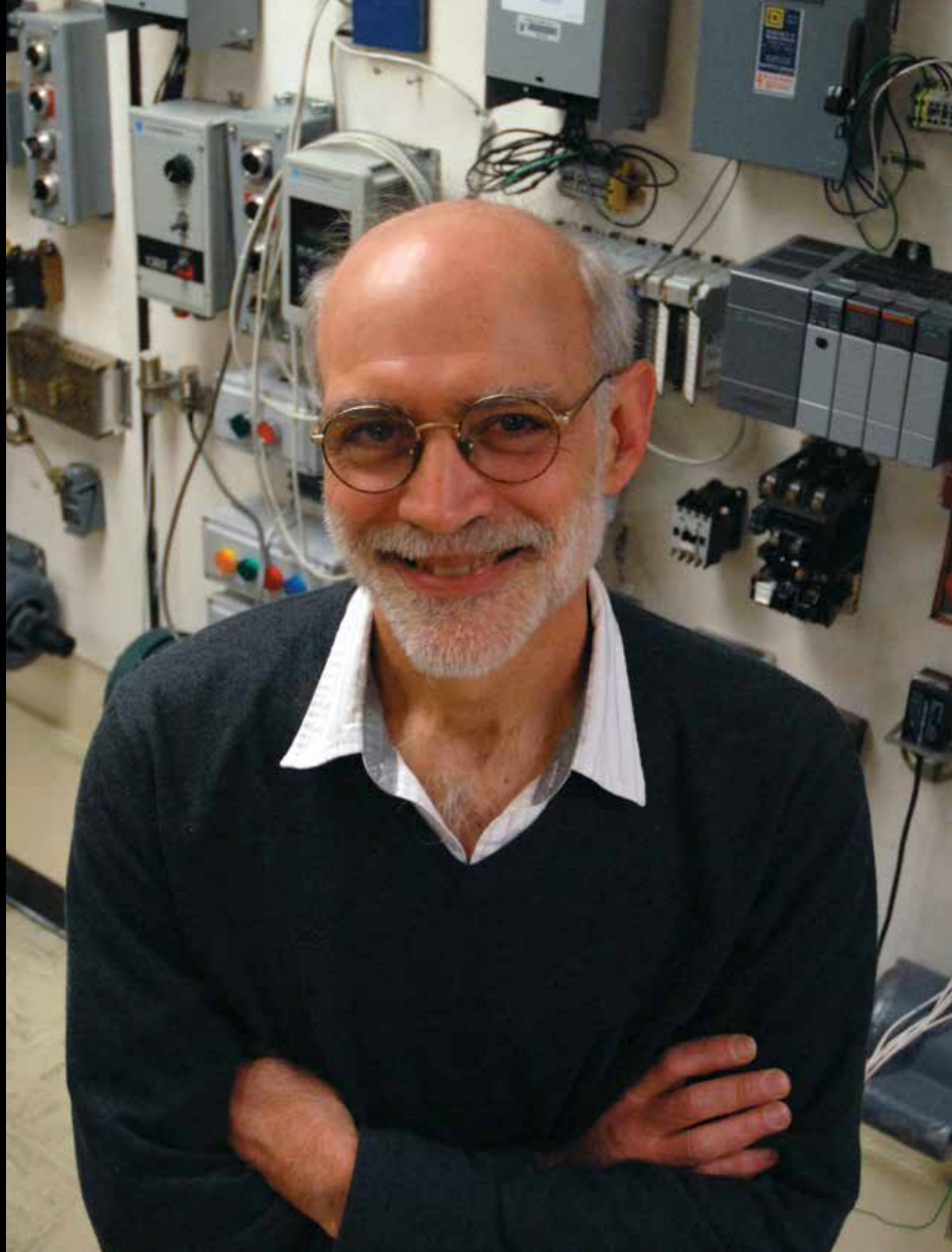


Mohawk Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter and Annual Report

Summer 2013

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The Mohawk Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter

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A Message from the President

In the words of author Ben Sweetland, "Success is a journey, not a destination."

That makes Mohawk Valley Community College one of the most important stops on the individual journeys of thousands of students from the Mohawk Valley region and beyond.

I hear it often, and it never fails to move me when people in the community express their pride at having started their journey at MVCC.

Such testimonials bear testament to the high quality of our academic programs, the dedication of our support service staff, and the passion and commitment of our faculty.

MVCC's vast community of alumni, as well as the Mohawk Valley community in general, cares a lot about MVCC and the success of our students. It is evident in the proud comments of alumni who say, "I got my start at MVCC," or "MVCC helped me decide what to do with my life."

It is evident in the generous donations of community leaders and private philanthropists, especially in these most challenging economic times.

When you give to the MVCC Foundation, you are making a college education a reality for a student who may have never thought it was possible. You are shaping a different future for underserved students who wouldn't have had such opportunities otherwise. You are ensuring that the students of the Mohawk Valley have the tools they need to learn, a productive environment to learn in, and the financial help to make it happen. Your donations help to create student opportunity by growing scholarships to make college affordable for more students and their families. You also are helping MVCC strengthen the region's viability by training workers for new careers and providing our students with the resources they need to succeed, whether it be a technology upgrade, new equipment, or new academic programs to keep up with changing community needs.

MVCC is continually looking forward, and with your support will keep up the momentum we have been building with an eye toward the future and a finger on the pulse of the economic needs of our region, our state, and our world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall J. VanWagoner".

Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.

President

MVCC's Decker combines engineering knowledge with passion for teaching

MVCC has been a part of life for Professor and Director of MVCC's Engineering Technologies Robert Decker '73 for more than 40 years.

It all started in 1971 when Decker began attending MVCC full time, majoring in Electrical Engineering Technology.

"I chose MVCC because it had the engineering and technology programs I was interested in, and I could pursue my interests locally," says Decker, a native of Utica, N.Y.

Two years later, he graduated with an AAS, then went on to earn his BT in Engineering Technology from SUNY Buffalo, his BS in Physics from Utica College of Syracuse University, and his MS in electrical engineering from Syracuse University.

Before he began his career in education, Decker had extensive experience in industry, including as a Senior Electrical Engineer for Thomson Consumer Electronics, and as an Electrical Engineer and Engineering Technician at General Electric.

"When my company decided to relocate our engineering group and a full-time teaching position opened up at MVCC, it looked like a good opportunity to move into a new career and share what I'd learned from working in industry," Decker says. "I had taught as an adjunct at MVCC in the 1970s and very much enjoyed the experience."

Decker joined the faculty of MVCC's Engineering Technologies and Trades (ETT) Department as a full-time instructor in January 1997. In this role, he developed new curriculum for Associate in Applied Science (AAS) and Associate in Occupational Science (AOS) degree programs in semiconductor manufacturing technology and fiber optics.

Decker is an invaluable resource for his students and alumni, connecting graduates with well-paying jobs at state-of-the-art facilities.

John Metott '11 studied Electrical Engineering Technology with Decker, and is now working at the GlobalFoundries plant in Malta, N.Y.

He credits Decker and the MVCC EET program with helping him get to where he is today.

"Bob Decker is an extremely intelligent man with pure compassion for the students under him," Metott says. "He understands that there are life problems, and he helps you through them as you learn. He really, truly cares about his students, and I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't met him."

The humble Decker has played a huge role in shaping the engineering programs offered at MVCC, and these programs attract experienced, knowledgeable faculty to teach them.

"Our engineering technologies programs are taught by faculty members that have broad industrial and educational experience in their respective fields, and they share this experience with

their students," he says. "Many also conduct specialized training programs for local companies through our Corporate and Community Education Department, which helps to keep them in touch with industry trends and needs" in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Decker says that these connections – built by MVCC faculty and staff – with local, regional, and worldwide industries have led to donations of equipment that bring real-life, hands-on experiences to the college's labs, which enhances all of MVCC's technology and trades programs.

"MVCC's STEM programs provide value to students in many ways," he says. "Our engineering science program provides a locally accessible, affordable, and challenging preparation path for students interested in pursuing careers in many different engineering disciplines."

But the value doesn't stop there. Faculty and staff also help students to identify transfer paths to well-recognized four-year schools and follow their progress.

"The relationships that the faculty has built between MVCC and world-class engineering schools such as Clarkson and RPI result in unique opportunities for our students," Decker says.

Last year, Decker was instrumental in a project to install 16 solar panels on the Science and Technology Building on MVCC's Utica Campus. The photovoltaic solar panels produce around 3,500 watts of electrical power, enough energy to cut a typical homeowner's electric bill by 40 percent to 50 percent on an annual basis.

"We built the array basically to support our students who will be installing complete systems in the future," Decker says. "This also helps us to explain to our students what is required based on firsthand knowledge."

With the installation of these solar panels at the College and other lab acquisitions funded by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority through the SUNYGREENSNY grant and the US Department of Energy through Solar Instructor Training Network, MVCC was able to offer Introduction to Photovoltaics, as well as a non-credit

version through CCED.

Most recently, Decker took part in the Madison Area Technical College's Capacity Building for Study Abroad Program and the Community College Sustainable Development Network. Over the January break, he traveled to Costa Rica with other community college instructors from across the country, five MATC students taking a renewable energy study-abroad course, and a group of adult learners from across the U.S., Costa Rica, and elsewhere.

Decker stayed at Rancho Mastatal, an eco-tourism venue about 2½ hours from San Jose on the border of the virgin rain forest of La Cangreja National Park. The ranch focuses on sustainable



agriculture and building with natural techniques. As part of this immersion course in renewable energy, Decker was involved in several service learning projects. In rural Costa Rica, as in many locations, electricity and propane are expensive and are not always available to all, but there is a lot of sun. The group constructed portable solar cookers for local people to use in place of wood or electricity. They installed a solar hot water system at the ranch's kitchen, performed maintenance on solar electricity systems, and learned about applications of water power systems, wind energy, and anaerobic digesters that can be used to convert manure and other wastes into cooking gas.

Decker will continue to work with MATC and the other college partners to develop a study abroad service learning course for MVCC students.

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 Candy Adams '10
 Adirondack Financial Services
 Helen Adsit, Elaine Adsit '89
 Charles Agne '61
 Albany OIT Field Office Dept of VA
 Susan Albrezzi-Chervenik '80
 Francis Alessandro '88
 Richard E. Alexander Co., Inc.
 Adnan Alibegic '05
 Richard E. Allen
 Alfred Allen '71
 Arthur Allen '84
 Marianne Alpert-Brooks '85
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 AMF Pin-O-Rama
 David Amico '83
 John and Barbara Amicucci
 Deborah Amuso '74
 Elaine Angwin '97
 John Angwin '88
 Patricia Antanavice
 Burton Anthony Jr. '54
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 Rocco and Victoria Arcuri, Sr.
 Kim Argenta '80
 Franca Armstrong
 Mark Arner '96
 Margaret Ashton '62
 Timothy Ashton '98
 Vahida Asotic '05
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 Anthony D. Aurience
 & Deanna L. Ferro-Aurience
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 David Ayoub '83
 Theodore Ayoub Jr. '81
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 Kelly Backer '08
 Tania Bader
 Beau & Denielle Bailey
 Roland Baker
 Lawrence Baker '53
 Robert Baker '58
 Robert Balawender '75
 Jean Baldwin '63
 Christine Bamberger '93
 Chester Banek '54
 Bank of Utica
 Dennis Barber '76
 Kathryn Barefoot
 Benjamin Barella '99
 Barone, Howard & Company CPA's, P.C.
 Peter Barresi '72
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Barron
 Mr. and Mrs. Ray Barron
 Barbara Barry '78
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 Pam Bart
 Celia Bartholomew '88
 Susan Bartholomew '82
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 Douglas Bauer '55
 Suzanne Bauer '67
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 Joyce Baumann
 Judith W. H. Baylis
 Janet Bebee '87
 Kathleen Bebee-Richmond '83
 Michael and Catherine Beck
 Maria Beck
 Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Beck



Andrew Platt

MVCC scholarships help students from all walks of life

Never before has a college education been as important as it is today, and never has affordability been such an important part of families' college decisions.

This year, the MVCC Foundation awarded 452 scholarships, amounting to more than \$275,000, both record numbers, to deserving students in a variety of majors, life situations, and areas of need. Approximately 255 individual MVCC students received scholarships from the MVCC Foundation for the year.

"The MVCC Foundation is dedicated to helping students reach their goals, and we give them some financial support if they need it," says Frank DuRoss, executive director of Institutional Advancement at MVCC. "So often, the barriers that stand in the way of student completion are financial, and we can help to ease that burden."

MVCC is known for its wide array of academic programs to suit almost every interest, but a little-known fact is that MVCC also offers a scholarship for nearly every student. The Foundation offers more than 100 different scholarships; some are designed for specific academic programs, and others for particular

groups of students who may be facing their own challenges, including single mothers, historically underserved populations, veterans, and returning adults.

Presidential Scholarship

One of MVCC's most prestigious awards is the Presidential Scholarship, a full-tuition scholarship given to Oneida County students graduating in the top 10 percent of their high school class. The Exceptional Student Scholarship awards the same full tuition to deserving students in neighboring counties. This year, a record 86 students received these awards.

Presidential Scholar Andrew Platt of Camden understands the importance of being fiscally aware, so he appreciates the value of a full-tuition scholarship for the first two years of college.

"Our economy in general is very concerning to me," he says. "I try to be financially responsible, even as a student, because I am a part of the future. I think it puts our country in a better financial position."

For Platt, coming to MVCC wasn't immediate. He had considered MVCC, but after graduating from Camden High School in 2010, he went to the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

"At the time, I thought it was a wise decision because the salary of a pharmacist would

compensate for spending so much money on a private education," he says. "But I didn't enjoy my studies as much as I'd hoped. I wasn't sure what to do."

Platt knew his strongest subject was math, so he decided to go to school for engineering. He knew that MVCC had strong engineering programs, so he contacted past Assistant Dean Margaret Reilly about coming to MVCC for the spring. At this point, Platt didn't even realize that he was still eligible for the Presidential Scholarship.

"I wasn't expecting it," he says, "but it was a tremendous help financially."

"I'm a big statistics person, which has made me look at all of this a bit differently. I mean, if you did a cost analysis, it's quite amazing when you take into account the full scholarship at MVCC, and other scholarships I've received because of MVCC, it's definitely a weight off my shoulders."

Platt says overall, MVCC was the best decision he made for his future.

"Coming to MVCC was a scholarship in itself," he says. "I mean, the Presidential Scholarship was huge, and I learned a lot here. But coming to MVCC opened up other opportunities for me as well."

One of those opportunities was applying for the Clarkson Leadership Award, which is only awarded to students just graduating from high school or those transferring from a participating two-year college. MVCC has an articulation agreement with Clarkson University, which means a seamless transfer of MVCC credits, in addition to scholarship opportunities.

"I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't come to MVCC," Platt says.

M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund Scholarship

Joe Andros received the M&T Bank/Partners Trust Bank Charitable Fund New Career Scholarship, which is given to a returning adult student working to complete a degree program. Andros worked at his former employer for 12 years before deciding to come back to school. "The culture was heading in a direction we weren't prepared for," he says. "I didn't want to end up asking 'Paper or plastic?', so I decided to learn a trade."

Andros knew he wanted to stay in the area,



Joe Andros

and he had heard good things about MVCC. So he enrolled in the Air Conditioning Technology and Refrigeration program. He has made the President's List twice and is scheduled to graduate in May. But deciding to go to college after being out of high school for 30 years wasn't easy, Andros says.

"The anxiety level was very high," he says. "I was always a middle-of-the-road student. I never took advanced math or anything like that. But to this day I have yet to face one hurdle in getting the help I need. The instructors at MVCC are so passionate about the success of their students that they go out of their way to make the experience that much easier."

Andros worked closely with Janet Visalli and the staff of the Adult Learner Services office, whom he calls "MVCC's biggest assets."

"One of the things I've found as a graduate of the class of the blue collar workforce, is that you're just a number, you do your job, get paid, but that's it. No one seems to notice," he says. "But here, it's a different story. I mean, first was the President's List recognition, then I joined Phi Theta Kappa, and now I have all these opportunities being thrown at me. I'm not used to being rewarded for hard work, but it really motivates me."

Andros' college experience wasn't without challenges. He originally filed for financial aid

for the spring and fall 2012 semesters, but the State Unemployment Insurance System required him to continue a full-time schedule over the summer as well. His financial aid did pay for the summer session, but that left him short for the next semester.

He learned about the M&T Bank Scholarship through the Adult Learner Services Office.

"This scholarship was a godsend and a blessing all wrapped up in one nice package," he says. "It made the difference of me finishing my education."

Andros is very thankful for the scholarship, as well as all of his professors and those who helped him through his education at MVCC. All of this has him feeling bittersweet about his upcoming graduation. He says he'll give back as much as he can and looks forward to trying to help other adult students find their way.

"I'm living proof," Andros says. "I came to this school with no skills. Now I'm sitting here with a 3.77 GPA and two President's List awards. I'm so much more marketable now."

Professional Association Scholarship

Pawser Soe came to MVCC from a refugee camp in Thailand, where she was forced to live after escaping war in her homeland of Burma. She started out taking ESL courses, which prepared her for her classes in International Studies, and she is now getting ready to graduate in May.

Soe received the MVCC Professional Association Scholarship, which is given to a currently enrolled MVCC student who has completed at least 30 credit hours at the College and has earned a 3.0 GPA. The winner must write an essay about the importance of labor unions in American society or the value of a community college education.

Soe says her ESL professors encouraged her to apply for the PA Scholarship. But she was nervous about writing the essay. "My professors believed in me and helped me step by step," she says. "They knew I had so much to say, but didn't know how to start."

Soe chose to write about a community college education, which for her is invaluable.

"It really is like a family," she says. "The small campus is very diverse, and there is so much to learn here. Today, I know English, and I am ready to graduate. I know I can stay here forever and keep learning. The professors really want to help and support their students, and that is the best

thing. They really care, and that makes students feel comfortable and eventually succeed."

When Soe first came to MVCC, she thought it was a "nice, small college, nothing fancy." But she learned that the small college had a lot to offer.

"This is the first time in my life I have ever won a scholarship," she says. "I didn't even know what 'scholarship' meant. But this, I'll never forget. This will help me continue to the next level."

When living in Thailand, Soe was living in a refugee camp and technically not a Thai citizen. So even though she did well in school, Soe was not eligible to apply for scholarships. At MVCC, she received financial aid, so she didn't apply for scholarships. But now that she is preparing to continue her education, she realizes the importance of doing so. "It's very important to find the money to apply for school."

Soe has since won one of only 72 Jack Kent Cooke Scholarships nationwide. She has been accepted at American University to study international services. "I have so many opportunities, and I'm very thankful," she says.

Soe hopes to help other refugees, using herself as an example of what people are capable of if they really try.

"I want to help them feel that they can be themselves, and put themselves out there, so everyone can see how great they are. I try to do my best so they can learn from me."

Pawser Soe



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Carolyn Beckwith '88
Leslie Becraft '09
Beebe Construction Services, Inc.
James Bellinger '90
Grover Bennett '91
Rosemary Benson
Bernice Benson '69
Robert Benz '65
M. Lee Berg
Charlene Berger '71
Dennis Berger '81
Stanley Bergman '48
Barbara A. Berlin
George Bernatz '63
Canelia Bernier '86
Louis Betrus '73
Helen Betzenhauser '79
Mary Bevacqua-Chmaj '83
Donna Jeanne Bever '79
Kenneth James Bianchi '83
John Bielby '74
Janet Biernat '94
E. Dickenson Bigelow '77
Richard Blachowiak '60
John Blair '97
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William and Joan Blanchfield
Lisa Blanchfield
Mary Jane Blanchfield
Diane Blatt
Sandra J. Bliss
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James Brockway '75
John Bronk '77
Alfred "Barney" Brooks
Jill Brooks '73
Jonathan Brooks '89
Michael Brooks '78
Annette Broski
John Brown '66
Roxanne Brown '86
Dorothy C. Brown
Jerome Brown

MVCC's Public Safety Programs train many police, fire officials

Mohawk Valley Community College has a long, proud history of training and educating some of the region's longest-serving and most decorated public safety officials, and in recent years the College has expanded its offerings in the public safety areas of police and fire to give recruits more tailored experiences and expertise.

The Criminal Justice AAS degree program, offered through MVCC's Center for Business, Information and Social Sciences, is a popular one for students seeking a career in law enforcement. The curriculum prepares students for a range of occupations, forming a foundation for understanding the operation of the criminal justice system, the causes of crime, the history and application of law, and the ethical bases of criminal justice decision-making. In 2012, MVCC began offering a Criminal Justice AS degree program for students who plan to transfer and pursue advanced degrees in related fields.

For many of MVCC's Criminal Justice alumni, getting their start at MVCC is what set them on the right path.



Gabrielle Liddy '05

Gabrielle Liddy '05, Chief Deputy of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, began her career with the Sheriff's Office in 1990 as a corrections officer. She moved up the ranks quickly; at 28, she was one of the youngest people to attain the rank of lieutenant in the history of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office. She held this position



Mello Testa Jr. '99

for eight years before being promoted to captain. Then, in 2011, Liddy became the first female to serve as Chief Deputy at the Sheriff's Office.

"I wasn't initially sure that I wanted to stay in the law enforcement field, but I knew I wanted to be a leader in whatever career path I chose," Liddy says. "I knew that a combination of education and work experience would make me more competitive when the opportunity arose for advancement."

Liddy chose MVCC because of its convenient location, which allowed her to continue her employment with the Sheriff's Office while pursuing her educational endeavors.

She says she appreciates the College's understanding faculty and quality of the courses. When Liddy became a mother, her goal of a college education got a bit more challenging.

"There weren't online classes then," she says. "And the responsibilities of motherhood, combined with full-time employment, often conflicted with my ability to attend classes. But when I got down to my final classes, some instructors allowed me to bring my child to class if I couldn't find childcare. There's no doubt I wouldn't have been able to complete those final courses without that cooperation."

Liddy went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Empire State College and a master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Keuka College. She is currently working toward a doctorate in Law and Public Policy. She recently was awarded the Carl Draxler Award by the New York State Sheriff's Association Institute, which is given to an employee of a sheriff's office whose career achievements have demonstrated a spirit of selfless public service. She was the first female to win the award.

Whitestown Police Chief Donald Wolanin '85 also received an AAS degree in Criminal Justice from MVCC, and he attended the Police Academy at MVCC in 1973.

"The first classes were held in Payne Hall," he remembers. "Then, several years later I attended classes in the MVCC Utica and Rome locations, and finally graduated in 1985."

Wolanin says that he attended numerous training activities throughout his career, including radar and breathalyzer, many of which were held at MVCC. He recalls being inspired by his professors, and tries to instill the values he learned then in his officers now.



Donald Wolanin '85

"The most important thing now is being able to help people who need help," Wolanin says. "I'm a firm believer in community policing, and I try hard to move the Whitestown PD in that direction. Police officers have a very difficult job, and I hope that the town police officers make a difference, and that they protect the community to the best of their ability."

Wolanin became chief of the Whitestown Police Department in 2002.

"In my 40 years of law enforcement I still remember Mr. Tom Blanchfield being the one that helped me the most in obtaining my degree from MVCC," Wolanin says. "He was an inspiration to me and most of the police officers who attended the police academy in the early years."

Michael Bailey '93, who recently retired from the Utica Police Department as Deputy Chief, received an AAS in Criminal Justice from MVCC before going on to earn his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Utica College and his master's degree in strategic communication and leadership from Seton Hall University.



Michael Bailey '93

Bailey says his time at MVCC helped him realize his lifelong dream of becoming a police officer.

"When I started in the Criminal Justice program at MVCC, I found a mix of instructors who were great academically, had been professionals in the field, or were some combination of both," Bailey says. "Their enthusiasm and expertise about the world of criminal justice and their practical knowledge of real-world issues took a young kid with interest and turned him into a young kid with real, achievable goals."

Bailey rose to the upper ranks of the police department and became deputy chief before retiring in May 2012 after 22 years on the force. He says such opportunities for advancement are available for everyone in the profession.

"There are many different special jobs that a police officer can do while still being a police officer," Bailey says. "One could be a detective, patrol officer, trainer, supervisor, SWAT team officer, grant writer, or any one of a number of other occupations – all within a single career."

Since his retirement, Bailey has focused his attention on being director of the Police Pre-Employment Training Program, or Phase I program, at MVCC. The noncredit program is offered through MVCC's Corporate and Community Education Department and allows recruits to acquire most of the training needed to become a police officer, including emergency vehicle operation, defensive tactics, and an educational foundation in law.

The benefit for Phase I students, Bailey says, is that they are more marketable to potential employers because most of their training is complete and paid for. He explains that in the more traditional police-training model, a new recruit is hired by an agency, spends six months in the police academy and three more months in field training, then three more months as a probationary officer. Once that process is complete, the officer can perform solo patrol.

"With a Phase I recruit, the time from trainee to solo patrol officer is cut in half because the officer has already put himself through his or her own training," Bailey explains. "Depending on the agency, this can represent a savings of 30 to 40 thousand dollars per officer hired."

Bailey says he enjoys training the Phase I recruits.

"When a class of new recruits enters the program, the physical and mental difficulties they face are extremely challenging," he says. "But they

soon realize just how much they can do if they put their minds to it."

Fire protection is another area where MVCC has a long tradition of training recruits to protect their communities. An AAS degree program was first implemented in 1976, and in 2011, MVCC's Center for Business, Information and Social Science joined with the Utica Fire Academy to offer the Fire Protection Technology program, which is designed for individuals who are working in or preparing to work in the areas of fire prevention and protection.

Kyle Stephens '12 of Ilion is just finishing his second degree from MVCC – an AAS in Fire Protection Technology. He already has an AS in Sports Medicine and is currently working as an EMT at MOVAC Ambulance in Mohawk. He graduated from the Utica Fire Academy in November and is waiting to get hired as a firefighter.

"I originally wanted to be an athletic trainer until I joined my local volunteer fire department," Stephens says. "I chose MVCC for my fire protection degree because it was close to home and a great degree to have, especially with its affiliation with the Utica Fire Academy."

For Stephens, choosing the MVCC degree program was an easy decision because it puts recruits ahead of the curve for training and jobs. And the connections the College can help graduates make are invaluable.

"Most local fire departments and many departments from around New York State send their new hires to the Utica Fire Academy and completely bypass the New York State Fire Academy," Stephens says. "The Utica Academy is very intense, but well worth the effort."

Students are required to take 37 credit hours of course work at MVCC and successfully complete more than 500 hours of training at the Utica Fire Academy, located at 1320 Bleecker St., once an active firehouse in Utica.

He says that having completed his training at the Academy makes him a more desirable hire.

"From there, I can transfer almost anywhere in the country," Stephens says. "Plus, the fire degree leads people into MVCC's Paramedic program, and once I get my paramedic certification, I can almost write my own ticket to anywhere I would like to go. So the greatest benefit of all, is being able to get a job doing what I love most, not to mention all of the knowledge I have received and can pass on to newer firefighters."

Stephens also points out that his degree in Sports Medicine has helped him in his work as an EMT.

"I'm glad to have a degree in Sports Medicine," he says. "Having a background in anatomy from MVCC helps me know portions of the body, which will help when I am training to become a paramedic. And being an EMT now, a lot of the stuff I can transfer over to patient care and injury assessments."

Like Stephens, Mello Testa Jr. '99 of Utica didn't start his college education with plans of becoming a firefighter. He received a degree in

Business Management before deciding to become a firefighter.

"MVCC is an affordable beginning to a good college education. And it's close," says Testa, who lives about ½ mile from MVCC's Utica campus. "Obviously, my degree has nothing to do with my profession, but I'm glad I went there. I was never a great student, but learning some study techniques and receiving guidance from the great instructors there helped me to finish my degree. So MVCC helped me achieve my goal of becoming a more serious student."

Testa says he decided to be a firefighter because he likes hands-on, physical jobs, and "being able to help people at their worst time."

In 2008, Testa was named Fire Fighter of the Year by American Legion Post 229, and in 2009, he received the same recognition from the Oneida County American Legion. He was recognized for saving lives, including rescuing two people who were inside burning buildings, but Testa says it's just part of the job.

"It was nice to be recognized, but it's just what I get paid to do," he says.



MVCC gave Holbrooks '12 academic, personal readiness

Ashley Holbrooks '12 has accomplished a lot in her 21 years.

She graduated in the top 10 percent of her class at Sauquoit Valley Senior High School, which earned her MVCC's full-tuition Presidential Scholarship. While at MVCC, Holbrooks was president of the Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) and worked as a part-time supervisor at a local department store, all while staying focused on her coursework. She graduated from MVCC last May with an associate degree in Engineering Science, then spent the summer doing cutting-edge research at Cornell University as part of the Physics Departments' Summer Research Internship.

Now, Holbrooks is a junior at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y., where she finished her first semester with a 3.81 GPA, earning the distinction of Presidential Scholar and solidifying the fact that her new campus is right where she should be.

"Besides the freezing weather, I love Clarkson," she says. "The classes are challenging but manageable,

the labs actually apply to the real world, and there are hundreds of research opportunities for undergraduates."

Holbrooks credits her time at MVCC as a major contributor to her success.

"MVCC played a big role in me being where I am in life," says Holbrooks, who is majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Clarkson. "For a long time I was debating what major I wanted to pursue: engineering or psychology. MVCC allowed me to declare a major and then take electives to see where my interests really lied."

Proximity to home was a major factor in choosing MVCC for starting her college experience.

"In all honesty, I wasn't ready to move away," Holbrooks says. "Starting out at MVCC was fate, I think. If I didn't stay in Utica, I don't believe I'd be as accomplished as I am. I feel like I am more prepared for whatever is thrown my way – academically or personally."

Personally, MVCC allowed Holbrooks to be herself and find community. She found a mentor and friend in Dr. Robert Christman, Associate

Professor of Psychology and Human Services at MVCC, who also is the advisor to the GSA. Holbrooks says that getting involved in the GSA was key to her academic and personal success. One of her most memorable experiences was taking part in a coming-out panel on campus, where several people told their stories and answered questions from the audience.

"It was so rewarding," she says. "I sincerely felt like we were able to help parents understand their children, and help children understand themselves."

Academically, Holbrooks says her classes at MVCC prepared her well for her workload at Clarkson, and she feels ready to take on any project her professors assign.

"The workload for an Engineering Science major at MVCC is just as much as for a mechanical engineering major at Clarkson," she says. "Because of that, I wasn't shocked when I was buried under labs and homework."

Holbrooks is taking six classes this semester, which means a lot of homework. "The professors here sincerely expect you to do nine hours of work outside of their class each week," she says.

But it's not all work and no play. "In one building there is a rollercoaster simulator that operates on nine axes that students can be involved with," Holbrooks says. "Basically, Clarkson allows us to use our knowledge and be big kids."

As for the future, Holbrooks is still deciding what her next step will be after graduating from Clarkson.

"It's a toss-up between graduate school and going to work," she says. "I've always had a dream to move to New York City and work at an engineering firm down there, and with all of the industry connections that Clarkson has, that is a very good possibility. But if I do go to back to school after graduation, I would like to focus on renewable energy."

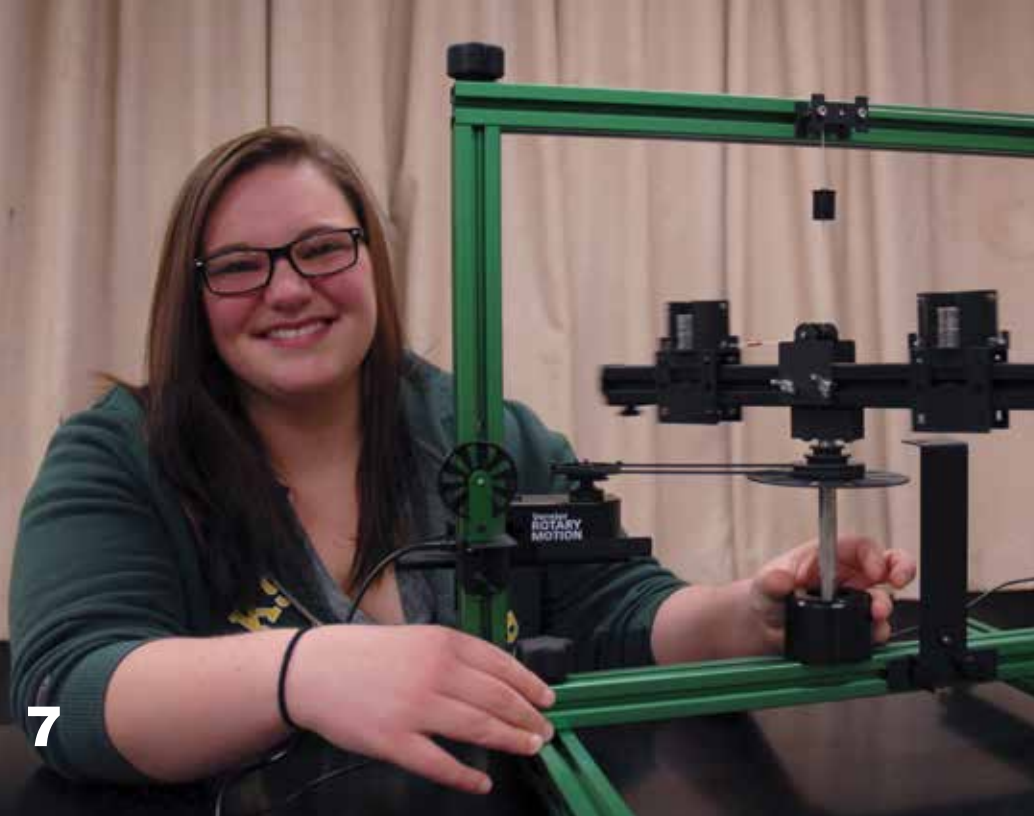
MVCC students to travel to Amsterdam and Paris

This spring, 16 MVCC students have been studying the art, history and literature of Amsterdam and Paris in preparation for an eight-day trip to those countries at the conclusion of the semester.

The three-credit, faculty-led, short-term Study Abroad course, which began in January, is designed to enhance students' cross-cultural skills and help them develop an understanding of Flemish and French art and culture. Students have been focused on European art, painting, literature and architecture with special attention to Paris, Versailles, and Amsterdam. Specifically, they have been exploring Hemingway's "Moveable Feast," Van Gogh's "Letters," and Woody Allen's "Midnight in Paris."

"The class is designed to give students a cultural introduction to the countries and cities we will visit," says Jed Kimball, Associate Professor of Art at MVCC and one of the faculty leaders for the trip. "Class projects are designed to get students to meet and work well with each other. This all culminates in the trip, where students with common interests explore sites and culture, broadening their worldview. Students gain a new perspective on education – and life – that gives their experiences a deeper meaning."

The trip, which departed on May 18, will include locations such as Anne Frank's house, the Van Gogh Museum, the Rembrandt Museum, the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe and the Louvre. During the trip, students will do a number of reflective essays and blogs, as well as a collaborative video project.



Greg Evans '79 named Alumnus of Merit

This year's MVCC Alumni of Merit Award winner is Greg Evans '79, President of Indium Corp. He was presented the award at Mohawk Valley Community College's Spring Commencement on Friday, May 24, at Utica Memorial Auditorium.

Evans earned his AS degree in Engineering Science from MVCC before going on to earn a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering at Clarkson College of Technology, and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Evans joined Indium Corp. in 1981 as an applications engineer and has served in numerous roles throughout his career, including product manager at the Electronics Chemicals Division and director of that division, Vice President of Corporate Manufacturing and Sales, and Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer. He was appointed to his current role as President of Indium Corporation in 1996. In this role he oversees the company's global activities, including 700 employees, 11 manufacturing facilities, and numerous field offices.

Under his leadership, Indium Corp. has



penetrated new markets, such as thermal interface materials, semiconductor packaging, and photovoltaic solar. This helped the company ride the crest of emerging markets and weather economic fluctuations of the more volatile consumer electronics market. Indium Corporation's ventures into these new industries have spawned new products, many of which have been recognized with awards for technological

vision and innovation, including the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award and the Frost & Sullivan Award, which was presented to the company four separate times for product excellence and technological progress.

Evans is a founding member of the Surface Mount Technology Association, an international organization for engineers and individuals affiliated with electronics assembly. He is also an active member of the World Presidents Organization, Empire Chapter. He also has served on various civic organizations, including the Utica Zoological Society and the Board of Directors for the Clinton School Foundation.

Evans currently serves on the Board of Trustees for St. Elizabeth Medical Center and is a seven-year rider with the Ride for Missing Children. In 2009, he received the Follow the Leaders award from Leadership Mohawk Valley.

In his free time, Evans enjoys the outdoors, especially fly fishing, running, soccer, skiing, golfing, camping, hiking, and family activities with his wife, Denyse, and his children, Nicole and Christopher.

MVCC launches expanded Honors Program

Recognizing that some of the Mohawk Valley's most academically accomplished students choose to start their college experience at MVCC, the college has developed an expanded Honors Program that will be offered to all eligible students beginning in the fall of 2013. Honors Distinctions will be granted to both new and returning MVCC students who meet program criteria.

The Honors Program at MVCC is designed to motivate exceptional students in all fields of study to develop to their fullest potential. The program is designed to enrich students' learning experience through independent research, challenging projects, and collaborations with faculty and peers – all while preparing them for further study or a career path leading toward a lifetime of achievement. The program will emphasize deep learning, supporting students in becoming independent, creative and self-confident learners. Students will participate in Honors-specific coursework and have faculty mentors to guide them through the process.

Students must complete three steps to earn the Honors Distinction, which is noted on their transcript and diploma: First, they must take Introduction to Honors, a course that will prepare them to conduct an independent research project and help build community among Honors students; second, participate in an Honors Seminar or conduct an independent research project; and third, complete an Honors Capstone Research Project.

To be eligible for the Honors Program, students must meet one of the following: have a GPA of 3.5 (90) or higher from an accredited high school, have an SAT score of 1170 or higher (or comparable ACT score), have top 10 percent standing in their graduating class at an accredited high school, or have a GPA of 3.5 or higher with a minimum of 12 credits earned at MVCC or another college.

There are many benefits for students who participate in MVCC's Honors program, including scholarship opportunities, a field trip each spring, recognition parties, challenging coursework and in-depth discussion, personal guidance and peer support, and the enhancement of resumes for employment and applications for transfer

colleges, scholarships, awards and internships.

"I am delighted that MVCC is able to offer such a rigorous and engaging program for our students," says Maryrose Eannace, Vice President of Academic and Learning Affairs at MVCC. "The Honors Program presents some very special opportunities for our most advanced students to develop their own strengths and abilities in deep scholarship."



Lisa Brukilacchio '77
Sally Buchanan Kinsey '52
Linda Buck '78
Margaret Buckley
Lisa Bullett
John Bullis & Janet Tamburrino
Anna Bundz '99
Alexander Buonanno '51
Ronald Burak '55
Kevin Burch
Lorraine Burger '77
Frank Burke '53
Lorraine Burke '79
Brian, Elizabeth, Tony, Kevin and Meg Burns
Willie Burrell '92
Esther Ann Burrello '83
Burrstone Animal Hospital, PC
Eric Burton '08
Eileen L. Bush
Robert Bush '66
William Bush '74
Marianne Buttenschon
Kevin Buttmer '76
Mary Cahalan
James Caldwell '63
Randal Caldwell '81
Frank Calenzo '63
David Calhoun '81
Edward Callahan '81
Bradley Campbell '93
Joel Campbell '73
Jon Campbell '89
Mary Campbell '73
Shirley Campbell '86
Patsy Canarelli '66
F. Timothy Cannarozzi '72
Carol Ann Canter
Kathleen Capozzella '76
Cheryl and Justin Cappon
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John Capron '76
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Ms. Toni Carbone
Frank Carbone '86
Margaret Card '74
Nicholas Cardinale '61
Angela Cardoza '92
Paul Carey '58
Charles Carino
Penny Carl
Wendy Carney '93
Nathan Carpenter '93
Rose Carpenter '83
Susan & Richard Carr
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Christopher Carrock '84
Janine Carzo '75
Albert Joseph Casab '87
Christine Case-Ceely '85
Charlotte Cassidy '73
Alvin Caswell '53
Cathedral Corporation
Charles Caughey
Ashley Cave '05
Edward Caviola '67
Cavo Builders' Supplies
Frances Cecere '71
Mrs. Louise Centolella
James F. Cesare
Mary Chamberlain '68
Carol Chanatry '55
Brenda Chandler '99
Louise Charbonneau
Phyllis Charles '55
Jim Cheeseman
Robert Cheesman '74
David Chirillo
Sandra Chrisler '82

Greetings from the Alumni Association

The MVCC Alumni Association has been pretty busy over the past year, and it is my pleasure to report on these activities and events.

One event has become so successful that we have turned it into an annual one: The MVCC Alumni Reunion at Turning Stone Resort and Casino. This will be the fourth year for the reunion; last year's attracted more than 200 attendees.

MVCC alumni are a great resource for our students, and several years ago the Alumni Association started a career panel, which each year brings alumni back to the MVCC campus to speak to students about their accomplishments and provide students with advice for their own success. This has become so popular that our coordinator of Transfer

We can't wait to hear from you!

Eugene Militello '84

Services would like us to create a panel to talk with students about furthering their education after MVCC. If you have recently transferred to another college and would like to share your experience with students, please contact Marie Kohl at Mkohl@mvcc.edu or (315) 792-5340.

In the same vein, we also are looking for alumni to work with our students on career planning. Our Career and Transfer Services Office would like to find alumni who are willing to become mentors and conduct informational interviews for our students. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact Marie Kohl at the above email address or phone number.

The MVCC Alumni Association also continues to reach out to MVCC students at campus events. At the beginning of each academic year, we provide free root beer floats during Club Day and beverages during Move-In Day at the Residence Halls. Another outreach project we are quite proud of is the Annual Alumni Association Blood Drive. This was an idea suggested by a board member, and every year, we exceed the goal set for us by the Red Cross. We are lucky to be able to work with students, faculty, staff, and the community in making a difference.

The Alumni Association has also been working on building a community for alumni, with the release of the Alumni Today Directory, which lists MVCC alumni by class year. The Alumni Association also maintains a social media presence on Facebook and LinkedIn, where alumni can connect with classmates or MVCC professors.

Last year, the Alumni Association Board of Directors increased the minimum donation for inclusion in the Alumni Association to \$50. Members receive many benefits, including a discounted rate at some cultural events, the opportunity to join the Alumni Board, and access to the fitness center (after purchasing a Wellness Pass and taking PE154).

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our alumni who have so generously donated to this year's Phonathon, as well as everyone who donated their time or money for the betterment of MVCC. Remember to join us on Facebook by searching "MVCC Alumni Association." We can't wait to hear from you!

Eugene Militello '84
President, MVCC Alumni Association

Allan Chrysler '89
William Chrysler '92
John Chudyk '67
Michael Chudyk '81
David Ciano '87
David Cidzik '83
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Ciecko
Barbara Cieslewitz '81
Joseph Cilurzo '57
Lyn Marion Cipriano & Family
Marlene Cirasuolo '06
Robin Clancy '01
Regina M. Clark
Robert and Rose Ann Clarke
Brett Clemens '97
Beth Close '78
Joann Cloutier '50
Bruce Cohen '74
Linda Cohen '66
Cohen & Cohen, LLP
Richard Colangelo
David Colbey '90
Jacelyn Cole '82
Lawrence Cole '62
William Cole '64
Lawrence Colelli '49
Henry Coleman '80
Russell Coleman '67
Vincent Coletti '54
Ronald Colicci '75
Janice Collier '88
Sandra Ann Collin '81
Pamela W. Collins
Brandy Collins
Rosemary Collins '72
Anthony and Marabella Colon
Mark Colosimo '98
Charles Comins '64
Liza Conestabile
Cheryl Conklin
Francis Connolly '89
Gerald Connolly '58
Robert Connor
ConServe
Walter Constantini
Jeffrey Converse '78
Donna Conway '76
Leonard Coon '79
Anthony Coriale '92
Sharon Corna '63
Gary Cornell '71
Deborah Cornish
Robert Corr '75
Christopher Cosco '74
Eileen Couch '84
Stephen and Kendra Coupe
Scott Courtney '78
Edward Paul Cousin '56
Barbara O. Couture '57
Jason Covey '04
Charles Cowen '86
Rev. and Mrs. J. Arthur Cox
James Cox '81
Deborah Coyle '80
Patricia Craig '02
Harold R. Cramer
Barbara Crandall '74
Corinne Crandell '69
Credit Bureau of Utica Fund, a fund of The
Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida
Counties, Inc.
Christopher Crolius '78
Cynthia Ann Crolius '79
Nancy Culver '96
Emily Cumber '10
Sandra Cummings
Robert Cunningham '90
Patricia Currier '72
Barbara Curtis '83
George Curtis '59
James F. Curtis '84
Marie B. Czarnnecki

Class Notes

1940s

Forest C. Lane '49

is currently 88 years old.



1950s

Kenneth Jones '58 received the Alumni Newsletter Spring 2013, and was pleased to read the notes from each decade. He was a student of Owen Brantley in his photography class (Advertising Design and Production), and was present when the design of the new campus and the architect's building models were presented. He says, "I believe that ours was the first class to preview both, and I always felt that we had some initial connection with the new campus, even though we were not destined to be part of the student body that would occupy it. I am proud to be an alumnus of a fine school."

1960s

MacKenzie Shoen '64 received his degree from Mohawk Valley Community College in Banking, Insurance & Real Estate. He worked 35 years in banking and changed his job and career after a bank merge. He now works for Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley as finance director. He married his high school sweetheart and they have five children and five grandsons.

1980s

Douglas Moynihan '89 graduated with a degree in Business Administration. In 1991 he graduated from Western New England University with a BA in finance. It was in 2001 that he obtained his Certified Financial Planning designation. He is currently a Wealth Advisor, Senior Vice President with Merrill Lynch. He says, "MVCC provided me a great foundation for life and I continued learning in my career. I need to get out to the campus sometime and see what has changed since 1989. Thanks for a great experience."

1990s

Sherry Anne Lints '93 studied Pre-Med/Biology and was thrilled to be the Commencement speaker for the December 2012 class. She is practicing as a chiropractor and travels as a singer and speaker. She is currently teaching Zumba classes for all ages. For more information, please visit www.SherryAnne.com

Foundation Golf Tournament to benefit Presidential Scholarships

The 27th Annual MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament will take place at Valley View Golf and Country Club in Utica on Monday, June 17. Tee-off will be at 1 p.m.

This year's tournament will benefit the full-tuition Presidential Scholarship fund, which 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 continue to give more students rich opportunities close to home.

For more information about the tournament, please contact Deanna L. Ferro-Aurience at the MVCC Foundation by phone at (315) 731-5797 or via email at dferro-aurience@mvcc.edu.



Save the Date
June 17, 2013



Welcoming You to the MVCC Legacy Society!

MVCC acknowledges the following Legacy Society members for including MVCC in their planned giving:

Jeffrey Barnard '81

Mary Q. & Edward Chapin

Patrick Duegaw '64

Frank B. & Liz DuRoss

Michael E. & Helen Evans

Mary Ellen & John Gleason '81

Dr. Alan J. Greco '71

Virginia & Edward Juergensen

Thomas Kernan

Ronald LaBuz '73

Robert G. & Martha Lacell

Charles S. Ochab

Albert V. Payne

Mary L. Penney

Olive S. Quackenbush

Harold R. Raak

Pauline A. Ryan

Arthur Salvetti '54

Dr. Randall J. and Mrs. Jennifer VanWagoner

If you have included MVCC in your estate planning, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at MVCC at 315.792.5526.



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Leigh D'Agostino '72
Colleen Ann D'Alfonso '04
Daniel D'Alfonso '79
Walter Danieluk '61
D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP
Ronald Darrow '63
Paul Davidson
Elizabeth Davies '79
Bruce Davis '79
Peter Dawes '04
Karen Dean
Brett L. DeBruyn '83
Dawn M. DeBuwitz '79
Joseph DeBuwitz '77
Barbara A. Decker
Robert Decker '73
John Decotis '03
Jackie Deeble
Laura DeFranco '00
Elisabetta DeGironimo '87
James Delalla '78
Kristen Delaney '88
Melissa and Jay DelCano
Delmonico's Italian Steakhouse
James Demetriades
Joseph Demko '80
Elizabeth Demma '83
Louis Denato Sr. '76
James Dence '64
Kenneth Dence '79
Mark Denero '75
The Matthew Denison Family
Eileen Dennison
Mary Lourdes DePietro '76
Todd Deragon '89
Robert Derajty's '54
Charles DeSanno
Diane Desnoyers '82
Joanne DeStefano
Joann DeTraglia
Vallance E. DeVisser
Julie Dewan
Jennifer DeWeerth
Joshua Dias '03
Joseph Dickquist '57
Alicia Dicks
Joann Dickson
Denise DiGiorgio '76
Philip Dikar '10
Joseph Dimartin '92
Vincent Dinallo '68
Diann DiNitto '82
Janet DiNitto '05
David W. Dinneen
Elizabeth DiRaimo
Pamela Irene Dise '80
John T. Dizer
Ellen Dmick
Gloria Dobbs '76
Lizabeth Doherty
John Domagal Jr '86
John Domagala '67
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Michael Donaruma
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Edward Duegaw '09
Elizabeth Dugan
Nina Dukette '73
Paul Dukette '72
Edward Dumas '84
Michele Dunlop '73

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 Lyle Eldred '66
 Robin R. Eldridge
 George Ellis
 Dorothea Elmandorf '76
 Donna Emery
 Michael Emery '90
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 Benjamin English '99
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 Patricia Fancett '92
 Kate Farley
 Carol Farley '77
 Hugh Farley '53
 Joan Farmer '78
 Amy Farnsworth '84
 David Farquhar '62
 John and Jacqueline Farrell
 John Faubert '82
 Malcolm Peter Fekete '84
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 Philip A. Felice
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 Beverly Felker '81
 Pearl Felton '06
 Jane Femia '98
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 Ralph J. Feola
 Marcella Ferens '06
 Willard Ferguson '77
 Roberta Fernalld '69
 Pamela Fess
 Thomas Glen Ficarro '78
 Russel & Darlene Fielding
 Deborah Finn '87
 James Fiore
 First Source Federal Credit Union
 John Fitzer '73
 Deborah Fitzgerald '79
 Patrick Fitzgerald '79
 Paula J. Fitzgerald '73

Michael Flack '94
 Anne Fletcher '82
 Joseph Filhan '83
 Michael Flint '68
 Rick Flisnik
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Foley
 Judy & James Foley
 Gerald Fontaine '55
 Paula Fontaine '71
 FootDoctors of Utica, P.C.
 John Foppes '85
 Blake and Cathy Ford
 Brant and Rebecca Ford
 Christine Ford '78
 Ronald Ford '79
 Patricia & Christopher Fox
 Ms. Carol J. Fox
 Charlotte Fox '90
 Mario Fragola '52
 Joan Frangos '53
 Peggy & Fred Frantz
 Peter Franz '78
 Dale Frary '64
 Diane Frasco Serbetzian '71
 Bruce Fraser '67
 William Fraser '65
 Christine Fredsell '68
 Arthur Friedberg
 Stephen Frisbee
 Daniel Frisbie '74
 Jane Fritts
 James Fuess '75
 Laureen Fuess '75
 Angela Funicello '94
 Rosemary Fuoco '79
 Joseph Furner '85
 Margaret Fusco '79
 Daniel Fusillo
 Gary Fustino '71
 Cornelia H. Gaetano
 Sandy and Brian Gaetano
 Charles A. Gaetano Construction Corp.
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 Holly Gagnon-Lambert '94
 Cathy Gaiser '96
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 Gary Gassman '69
 Frederick Gates '96
 Rosalie Gau '97
 The GE Foundation
 Lindsey Geary
 April Marie Geiger '83
 Dennis Gellach '64
 Angela M. Gentile
 Jeri George
 Richard George '58
 George's Gym Equipment
 Richard Gerling '51
 Nancy Gerzonich
 Mary Getman '68
 Getnick, Livingston, Atkinson & Priore
 Joseph Giambone '70
 Dennis Gibbons
 James Gifford
 Kevin Gifford '82
 Mark Gifford '92
 Maria Giglio '70
 Cynthia Gilbert
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 Terrence Gilbride '92
 Michael Gilman '70
 Sheila K. Gilroy
 John Ginster '93
 Annette Giometti
 Frank Giotto

Supporters

MVCC Foundation Year in Review

What a year it has been!

As Executive Director of Institutional Advancement at MVCC, I am proud to look back on a year filled with new partnerships, philanthropy, and student opportunity.

The Mohawk Valley Community College Foundation was established in 1966 to secure private sector support to supplement and enhance public funding at MVCC. We strive to grow scholarships to make college affordable for more students and their families, and break down barriers that can prevent students from completing their education.

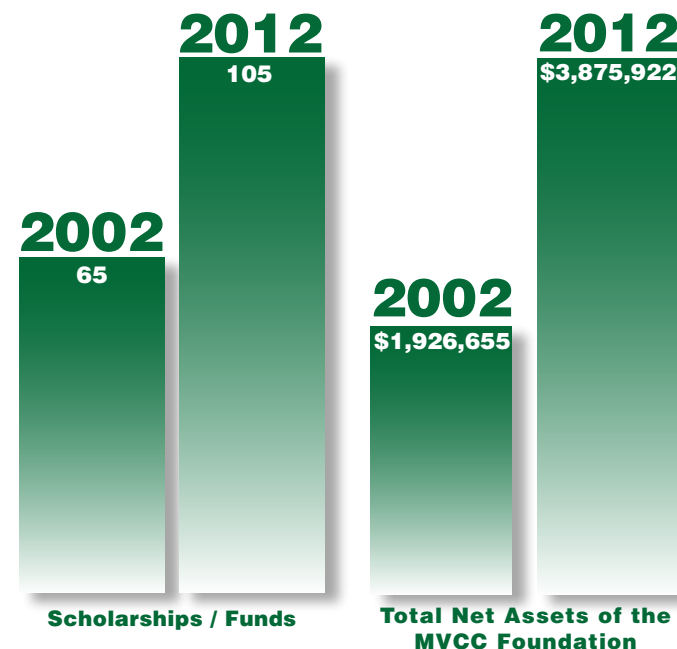
I am always impressed with the generosity of the Mohawk Valley community, local businesses, and you, our alumni. This year, the MVCC Foundation established eight new scholarships, adding to the more than 100 scholarships already administered. A record 452 scholarships were awarded this year, amounting to more than \$275,000 given to deserving students in a variety of majors, life situations, and areas of need.

But scholarships are just a small part of what we do. The Foundation is always looking for new, creative ways to create and expand opportunities for MVCC students, the community, and regional industry.

One of those initiatives is planned giving, which allows anyone to support MVCC by including the College in their estate planning. Planned giving allows donors to create a legacy that reaches beyond lifetimes to help create new opportunities for thousands of MVCC students, today and tomorrow. To recognize these donors, the Foundation created the MVCC Legacy Society. Learn more at mvcc.plannedgiving.org.

A new event was the MVCC Retiree Luncheon, which brought more than 85 attendees to the college's Utica campus. The event helped to reconnect MVCC retirees with old friends and colleagues over lunch while learning about the college's new initiatives, including the creation of an MVCC Retiree Scholarship, which will serve as a way for retirees to express their appreciation to the colleagues, mentors, friends and students who enriched their MVCC experiences while providing financial assistance to deserving students.

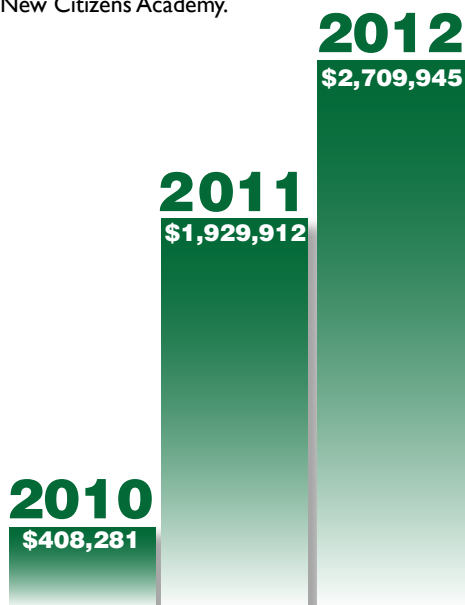
10-Year Trends



The Foundation is also dedicated to boosting entrepreneurship in the Mohawk Valley region. Last fall, the Foundation was instrumental in beginning the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, a program for students in grades six through 12 from seven school districts. For this program, the college partnered with Beebe Construction, Mohawk Limited, First Source Federal Credit Union, M&T Bank, and the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce. More than 60 community participants volunteer their time to YEA as guest speakers, graphic designers, mentors, and fieldtrips hosts. The Foundation also hired John Liddy as its part-time Entrepreneur in Residence.

The MVCC Foundation also has been working with On Point for College, a Syracuse-based organization dedicated to making higher education accessible to low-income youth. We are working to replicate their success, sharing space at the Educational Opportunity Center on Elizabeth Street in Utica.

The Foundation also works to secure grants to enhance the college's facilities, programs, and services. The Foundation has received 23 grants totaling \$644,051. This money will be used for scholarships, youth programs, literacy and career camps, lab equipment, community outreach, and a New Citizens Academy.



Challenge and Opportunity
Major Gift Campaign Totals

In 2011, MVCC began its first-ever major gifts campaign with a \$7 million goal. The campaign began internally for faculty and staff and had 84 percent participation. The campaign is focused on raising funds for scholarships, educational resources, and helping students in need complete their degrees. To date, the campaign has raised \$2.9 million.

The MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament continues to grow, as well. Last year, there were 120 participants, and \$22,800 was raised for the Presidential Scholarship. Another event, the Ted Moore Run/Walk, had 274 participants last year, the largest turnout yet, raising a record \$8,800, which allowed us to give out three Ted Moore Scholarships instead of one.

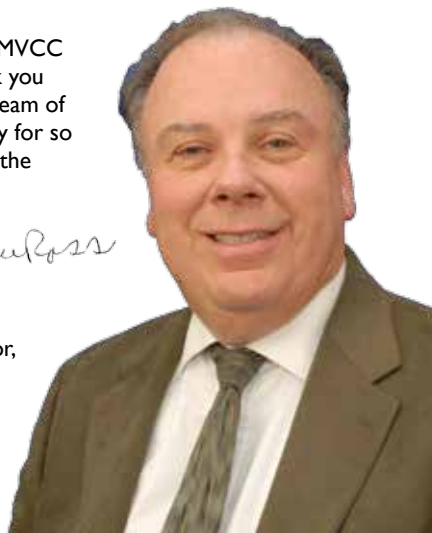
Team MVCC continued its mission of community philanthropy this year, raising a total of \$22,429 for external groups and events, including the Chron's and Colitis Walk, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, United Way, America's Greatest Heart Run/Walk, Kelberman Center Walk for Autism, and the Rescue Mission of Utica Bake Sale. The team also collected 200 toys for the Marine Corp.'s Holly Days Toy Drive, and 350 food items for the Feed Our Vets Veterans Day Food Drive.

The Emergency Relief Fund is another way the MVCC Foundation has been helping students in need. If a student has a financial emergency, the Foundation will advance them the money, then get paid back by the student's financial aid. This fund is made possible by your donations, and last year helped 57 students stay in school. This is truly a profound difference made possible by the generous donations of the community and our alumni.

On behalf of the MVCC Foundation, thank you for making the dream of education a reality for so many students in the Mohawk Valley.

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