

Mohawk Valley Community College
Alumni Newsletter
Spring 2013

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"I have the best job in the world."
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The Mohawk Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter

Volume 21, Issue 1

The Mohawk Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter is published twice each year for alumni and the MVCC community. It is a partnership between the MVCC Alumni Association, MVCC Foundation, and the College.

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Questions about Mohawk Valley Community College, its services and its programs should be directed to the MVCC Office of Admissions at 315.792.5400. Comments or questions about this publication can be directed to MVCC Marketing and Communications at 315.792.5330.

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A Message from the President

When I came to MVCC in July of 2007, I was excited to become a part of a comprehensive community college that is so well-respected and supported in the community with such an engaged alumni base. Being here for over five years, I can reflect on the growth I have seen in the college as we strive each day to fulfill our mission to promote student success and community involvement through a commitment to excellence and a spirit of service.

Mohawk Valley Community College has seen a tremendous growth in enrollment over the last five years, and that growth has driven many of our priorities as an institution. We have strengthened our student support systems, diversified learning opportunities, and updated facilities on both our Utica and Rome campuses. In 2009, MVCC reorganized its 12 academic departments into five new academic centers: the Center for Life and Health Sciences; the Center for Business, Social Sciences and Information Technology; the Center for Arts and Humanities; the Center for Language and Learning Design; and the Center for Mathematics, Engineering, Physical Science and Applied Technology.

The college has also bolstered its partnerships within the community. We have increased connections with local school districts and expanded agreements with four-year colleges and universities, making for a seamless transfer for our graduates. In the same vein, MVCC has continued to expand its workforce development efforts and implement summer career camps for area young people in MVCC program-related fields.

MVCC has also committed to expanding resources that support learning, including the latest technology for our classrooms and computer labs, as well as the labs that our health services majors practice in. We have adjusted our program offerings to meet the needs of the region's employers, who asked for more health and engineering graduates.

MVCC is and will continue to be an extraordinarily successful college because we are connected in so many ways to our region, our state and our world. We will continue to evolve with our community and our students, and we look forward to more successes in the years to come.

Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.

President

Deperno '94 helps people realize their potential

For any athlete, making the move from the sidelines to the field of play is a great victory. But for athletes working with Sitrin Health Care Center Occupational Therapist Marc Deperno '94, winning that victory is especially sweet.

"I have the best job in the world," he says. "I love seeing positive change in the lives of my clients."

Deperno, who has been with Sitrin since 2001, works with everyone from patients with spinal injuries to amputees. Those with hip or knee replacements, strokes, autism, cerebral palsy and various developmental delays also receive treatment from Deperno. He also is the director of the Sitrin STARS (Success Through Adaptive Rewards and Sports), the region's first adaptive sports program to provide a variety of recreational and competitive activities for individuals with disabilities.

"I try to instill in them that life is not over," DePerno says. "And we work to emphasize the abilities they do have."

Over the years, the STARS have attended many national and international events, including the World Wheelchair Curling Championships and the Paralympic Winter Games. They won the bronze at the World Wheelchair Curling Championships in 2008, and STARS athletes have placed as high as second in the annual Boilermaker 15K Road Race and won gold medals in biathlon at the Empire State Games.

Deperno began Sitrin STARS in 2001, using the Boilermaker as a starting point.

"I worked with (the late paralympian) Ed Bradley to educate myself on the world of Paralympics," he says. "We started with basketball, which was a sport many people played prior to their injury."

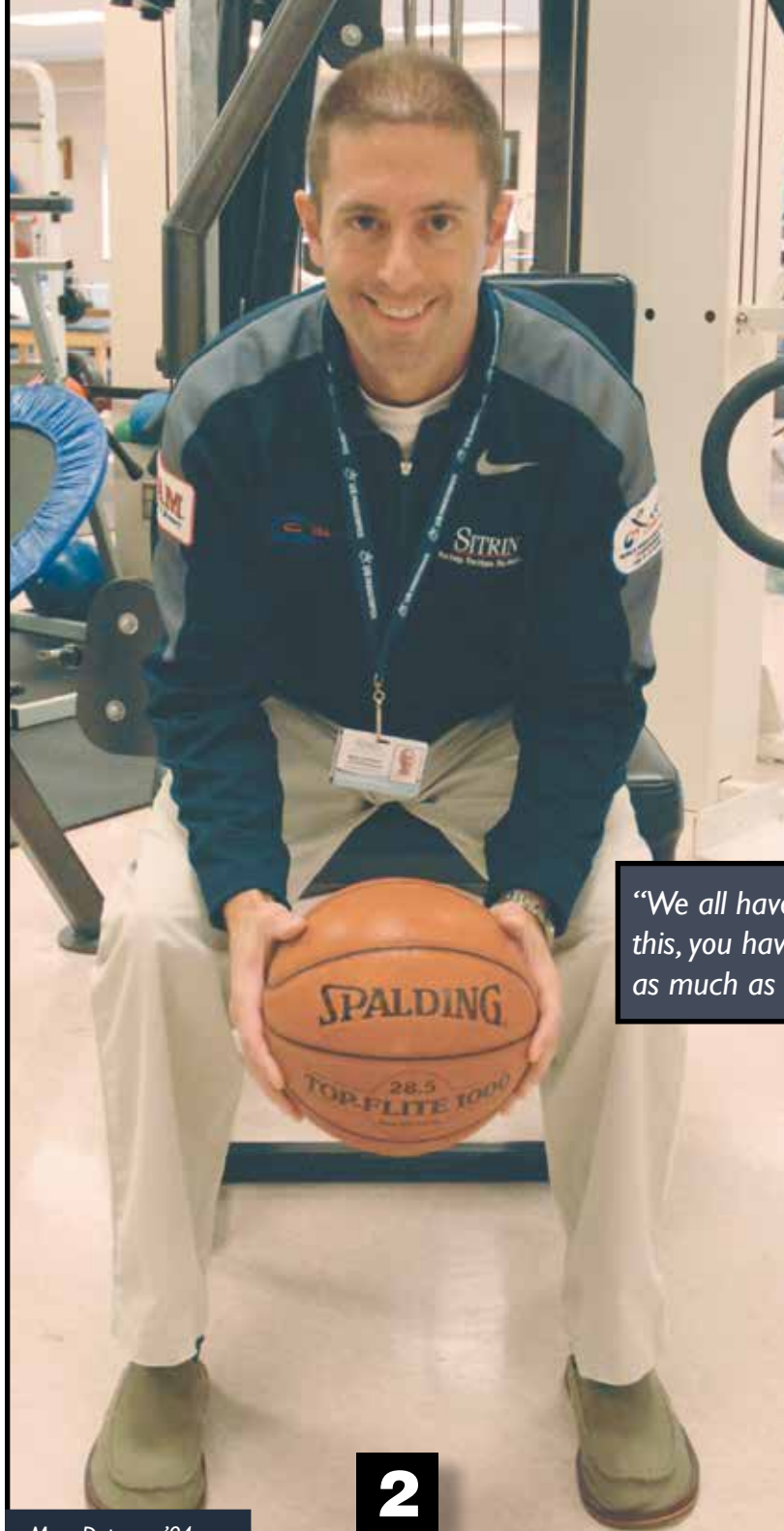
The program grew to include adaptive curling, paddling, golf, road racing, biathlon, and an air rifle shooting program. Once most athletes try basketball, they want to give the other sports a shot as well, according to Deperno.

"They see that they can do it, and sometimes that's all it takes," he says. "We find ways to bridge the gap between able bodies and those with impairments."

But Deperno acknowledges that getting patients to focus on their ability, rather than their disability, can be a challenge.

"With a significant, life-altering trauma, there is always staging, and they go through the steps of coping," he says. "But eventually you break the shell, and the sooner they recognize the positive and what they are capable of, the better the outcome and their outlook."

Paralympian Jimmy Joseph credits Deperno with turning his life around. He lost his legs in an accident on the job in 1987. He was hit from behind by another vehicle and Both



Marc Deperno '94

2

of his legs had to be amputated.

"I was 25 years old and suddenly had no direction," Joseph says. "I spent the next 16 years working random jobs and partying with my friends. I lived a life that had no meaning."

In 2003, Joseph was approached by a STARS athlete at Sangertown Square. Joseph called Deperno the next day to ask about the program, then stopped by to introduce himself.

"He had me at hello," Joseph jokes of his first impression of Deperno. "He's done so much for me – he changed my life. He will change your life. Without him, I wouldn't be traveling the world."

So far, Joseph has been to Scotland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, South Korea, and Vancouver; in addition to much of the United States, playing on eight consecutive wheelchair curling teams.

"I fell in love with the game after my first two or three stones," he says. "It's like chess on ice."

"Jimmy had a troubled past; this helped him turn the page," Deperno says. "He has a new outlook on life, and has made new friends, which have become like family. His humor and energy are contagious."

Joseph and his wife, Sueann, have a 5-year-old daughter and just bought a house. "I am looking forward to the future," he says. "I want to be on the podium with a gold medal around my neck."

Deperno says clients like Joseph inspire him daily.

"We all have obstacles," he says. "Working with people like this, you have to work forward. It's reciprocal. They help me as much as I help them."

In 2010, Deperno received the O.C. Tanner Inspiration Award, which honors those working behind the scenes to help their athletes win medals. Joseph nominated him for the award.

Deperno is a 1992 graduate of Whitesboro High School and 2000 graduate of Utica College. He and his wife, Jamie, have two daughters in first and third grades at Whitesboro High School.

He credits his MVCC education with helping the transition to UC. and the workforce.

"MVCC gave me a solid foundation," he says. "I knew at a young age that I wanted to be involved in health care, and that I wanted to stay local. My father graduated from MVCC, so I knew of the history and had a rapport. I always appreciated the small class size. I never felt like I was a number. It seemed like it would be a great fit and it was."

Planned gifts create legacy, new opportunities

For students, going to college creates new opportunities. Likewise, gift planning creates opportunities for forward-thinking charitable investors. When a donor plans a gift to MVCC, he or she creates a legacy that reaches beyond lifetimes to help create new opportunities for thousands of MVCC students, both today and tomorrow.

For Ron Labuz '88, professor of art and longtime head of the Art Department at MVCC, putting the college in his will is one way to keep giving back to the students who have given him so much over the years.

"MVCC is my life," he says. "I met my wife here. This was the first college I attended (in the 1970s). It has been my working life for 31 years. Everyone I love is here."

But beyond those connections is the love he has for the students at MVCC. "Our students are different," he says. "There is diversity here that four-year colleges just can't offer. I love my students. I'm really proud of those who have cried in my office and then became successful. And I want to keep helping them."

Labuz says he is confident about how his money is used. "I trust the college to use it the best way it can," he says, but would like it if his money went to help art students who need it.

"Often, a photography student will lose a camera, or a design student can't afford supplies," he says. "It might be nice if there was a fund to help students without resources."

As vice president of M. Griffith Investment Services Inc. and group head of Evans Retirement Advisors, Michael Evans helps his clients plan for a comfortable and fulfilling retirement.

In his own life, Evans has committed to continue his support for MVCC forever by naming the MVCC Foundation endowment as a beneficiary of his individual retirement account.

"I have a great, high regard for MVCC in the community," says Evans, who serves on the Board of Directors of the MVCC Foundation. "MVCC is a great starting point for our area's youth, many of whom would not be able to afford an education otherwise. And it also offers the opportunity for area employers to find qualified employees."

Evans, a native of Utica, joined M. Griffith in 1984. He was educated in local schools and is a graduate of Union College, as well as a U.S. Navy veteran. He has more than

43 years of experience doing business in the Mohawk Valley. He also is a former market commentator and talk show host on WIBX, instructor of adult education courses on Retirement Planning at Utica College and SUNY Institute of Technology, and frequent presenter of market and financial planning insights to community organizations.

While Evans himself is not an alumnus of MVCC, he appreciates the difference it makes in the Mohawk Valley. He recently held a thank-you event for clients in the newly constructed Robert Jorgensen Athletic and Events Center on MVCC's Utica campus and witnessed the strong connection that many of his guests felt to the college.

"Many were alumni and were impressed with how far the college has come," he said. "The Jorgensen Center is a shining example of what can be achieved through a combination of private and public funding. MVCC is a terrific community asset and I am proud to be a part of it."

Gift planning is a thoughtful process. To learn more, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement by phone at 315.792.5526, by email at giftplanning@mvcc.edu, or on the Web at www.mvcc.edu/giftplanning.



Ron Labuz '88

Ways to give

Mohawk Valley Community College relies on the generosity of our alumni and friends to provide more opportunities for our students. Gifts of all types and sizes can make a difference. Here are the ways you can give:

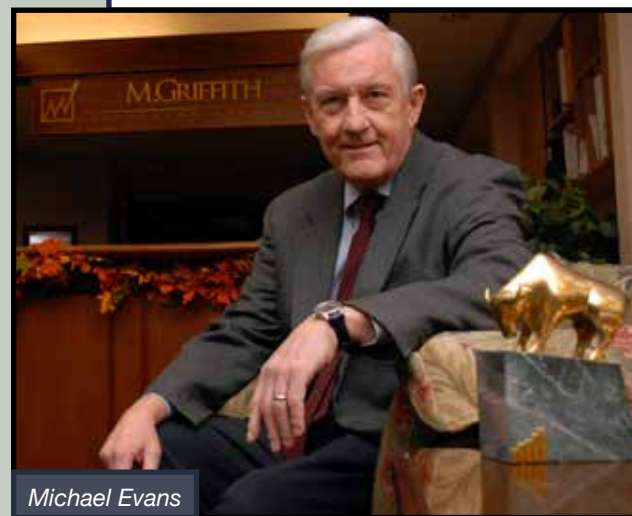
Online: Give an online gift safely using our secure site, www.mvcc.edu/give. It's safe, secure, and convenient.

By mail: Checks should be made payable to the MVCC Foundation and mailed to: MVCC Foundation, 1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY 13501.

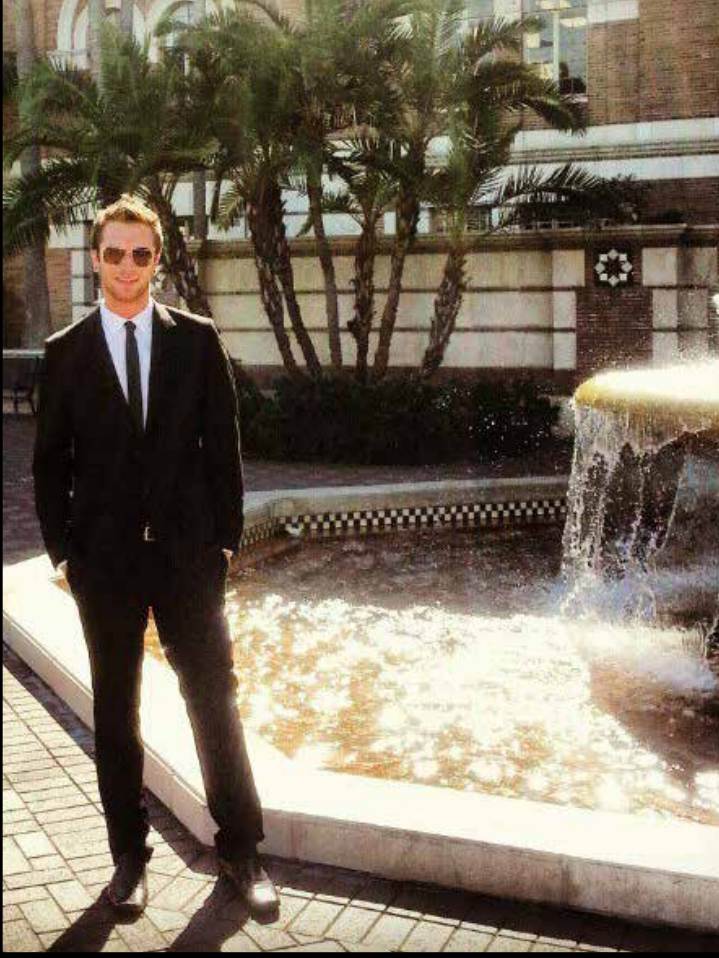
By phone: Student representatives work hard to get the message out to all alumni and parents. So when you get the call from MVCC, please pledge your support. Don't want to wait? Call 315.792.5555 to make a pledge or contribute using VISA, MasterCard, or American Express.

Employer gift match: You can double or even triple the impact of your gift if you or your spouse's employer participates in a Corporate Matching Gifts program. Speak with your human resources office about obtaining a gift match form and include the completed form with your contribution.

Planned giving: Please remember MVCC in your estate planning. For additional information, please contact Frank DuRoss at 315.792.5526 or frank.duross@mvcc.edu.



Michael Evans



MVCC helped open many doors for USC junior

Joshua Jolly '12 always knew he wanted to go to the University of Southern California (USC) to study public relations, but he didn't know just how much two years at a community college would help him once he arrived in Los Angeles.

"Attending MVCC for two years was probably the best thing I could have done," says Jolly, a native of Geneva, who traded Central New York winters for mild Southern California weather. "MVCC was a huge stepping stone when it came to preparing me for my adventures at USC."

For instance, while at MVCC, Jolly had the chance to be an intern in the college's Marketing and Communications Department. "This was by far the most important part of my MVCC experience," he says. "It allowed me to experience what it would be like working in the public relations field, and I loved feeling like a part of the team."

Jolly says that taking advantage of such opportunities at MVCC has opened even more doors for him at USC. "MVCC offers many opportunities for students to get involved, and I made sure I took advantage of that as often as I could," he says.

In addition to being a full-time student, he has two public relations jobs on his new campus – one in the Hospitality department, and the other on the Health Sciences Campus. Both jobs are teaching him a lot about PR, and he even has his own office.

"I am still getting used to the environment and the lingo, but pretty soon I will be working on a few events that I will be in charge of on campus," he says. "I love it!"

Jolly was first attracted to MVCC because of the college's strong Photography program. "It was my passion and something I did very well," he says. "I wanted to start off doing the best I could. I made sure I was always aware of what was due every week, and I kept on top of my studies."

All the hard work paid off, and Jolly graduated with a 3.9 overall GPA and an associate in applied science degree in photography, which has helped in his studies.

"Every professor at USC who heard that I have a degree in photography was very impressed," he says. "In fact, they say that photography will be very beneficial in the PR industry."

Jolly says he has fallen in love with USC. "This was my dream school," he says. "I am always overjoyed at the fact that I have finally made it here. I love the fountains that USC has throughout the campus, and not to mention my favorite perk of Southern California – the palm trees."

He spends what little free time he has going to the beach and exploring his new city. He plans to stay at USC to complete graduate school, and he hopes to work for a major celebrity entertainment PR firm.

"I have grown to love everything that has to do with celebrity and entertainment PR, and living in L.A. with a great education makes this dream much easier to attain."

MVCC partners with Chamber of Commerce on youth program

This fall, Mohawk Valley Community College began a new, groundbreaking and fun enrichment program for motivated middle and high school students that takes them through the process of starting and launching their own real businesses or social movements over the course of an academic year.

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a joint venture with the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce and area businesses that began in November and will run through June. The 30-week program takes a fun, projects-based approach. Students will meet with local business leaders, generate real business ideas, pitch their business plans in front of investors, and launch their own real, legal, profitable businesses. Business mentors, graphic designers, and local entrepreneurs support the students throughout the program, so all of the learning is real and experiential. By the end of the class, which takes place on MVCC's Utica campus, students own and operate fully formed and functioning businesses. YEA! was developed at the University of Rochester with support from The Kauffman Foundation.

"We stand ready to promote college readiness and interest among middle and high school students through the Young Entrepreneurs Academy," said MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D. "This unique and challenging experience will inspire the students who participate and make the Mohawk Valley a more favorable environment for all kinds of entrepreneurs and employers."

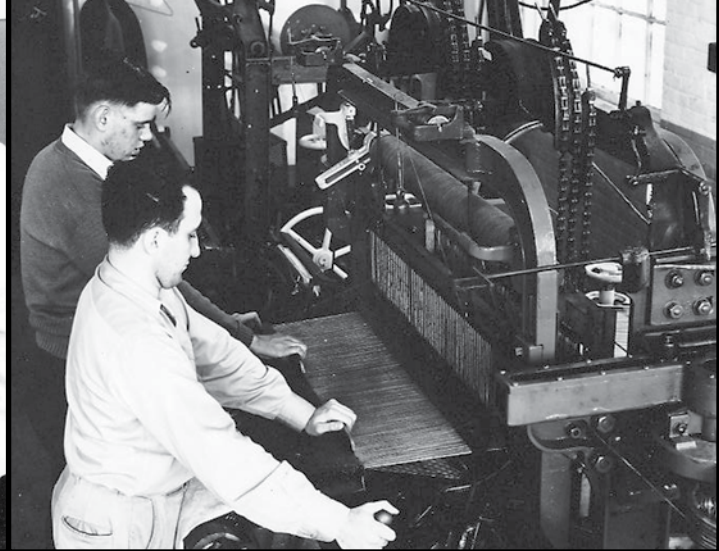
Several local sponsors have pledged to support YEA! at MVCC with multi-year financial commitments, including Mohawk Ltd., Beebe Construction Services, First Source Federal Credit Union, M&T Bank, and the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce. At least five scholarships will be available to YEA! students, and the MVCC Foundation is seeking additional investment to provide scholarships. YEA! aligns with initiatives in MVCC's "Challenge and Opportunity" major gifts campaign, including elevating local teens' educational and career objectives and creating more opportunities for successful entrepreneurship in the Mohawk Valley.

"We are excited about the expansion and specifically chose Mohawk Valley Community College because of its reputation for academic excellence," said Gayle Jagel, the CEO and founder of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy. "We are urging all local business leaders to become involved with the program and act as mentors to the budding entrepreneurs."

The program began Nov. 7 with 12 students in grades 6-12 representing seven different school districts in Oneida County. Three local entrepreneurs have signed on as instructors: Michelle Truett, founder and owner of 484 Design, Inc.; Brett Truett, founder and president of SoftNoze USA, Inc.; and Joe Mandia '90, remote animator for Hi-Rez Studios.

For more information about the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, please call 585.272.3535 or visit www.yeausa.org.





By Jennifer Rotundo Fanelli '95

Mohawk Valley Community College is many things to many people. Most universally, it offers choice, opportunity and hope by providing accessible and affordable higher education and services that emphasize academic excellence.

But MVCC also connects school districts with universities, students with mentors, employers with workers, and employees with training. It offers a second chance to the student whose life may have gone off track years ago, and the chance to start a new life to refugees learning English. It offers new career skills for those who lost their jobs. It introduces children to careers and college at an early age, to instill in them the idea and value of a college education.

It creates the opportunity for college success for people who never thought they would have the chance.

For me, MVCC is what set me on the right path for my future. I graduated from Utica's Proctor High School with no idea where to go, what to major in, or what to choose for a career. MVCC's Presidential Scholarship made the first decision easy – go to MVCC tuition-free for two years. With the help of my advisor, I chose to major in General Studies, which allowed me to explore different ideas and helped me realize how to best utilize my strengths. A Journalism class taught by Professor George Searles is what finally helped me decide to put my writing skills to work. I also had the chance to intern at the Observer-Dispatch, where I got to see how a newsroom worked. I was immediately hooked. I graduated from MVCC in 1995, transferred to Utica College to study Journalism, and graduated in 1997 with a full-time job lined up at the O-D. I worked there until 2011, when I made the move to MVCC's Marketing Department. I love the fact that my experience has brought me full circle, and now I am working to make others aware of all that MVCC has to offer.

It's also great to see all of the changes at the college. When I was a student, the auditorium was in Payne Hall where the Student Services Center now stands. The Information Technology (IT) Building didn't even exist. My Fine Art major friends had to go to Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute to take art classes. And these developments barely scratch the surface of what MVCC has accomplished in its more than 65-year history.

Insurance and Real Estate. In 1959, construction began on the Sherman Drive site in Utica.

Now: MVCC's Utica campus on Sherman Drive is well appointed, and still growing. In addition to the first buildings added to the site, the Gym, Academic Building and the Student Union (now the Alumni College Center), the college has a state-of-the-art Information Technology Building with an auditorium and smart classrooms, as well as a full Science and Technology Building and renovated Jorgensen Athletic and Events Center.

Editors View: a decade-by-decade look at MVCC:

1940s

Then: MVCC was founded in 1946 as New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences at Utica with a single program – Retail Business Management. More programs were added when the State Education Department called for programs in mechanical, electrical and textile technology. The classes were held in the Munro Building on State Street in Utica and the Country Day School site in New Hartford.

Now: MVCC offers more than 90 degree programs and 30 certificate programs, ranging from Health Services to Digital Animation, and Human Services to Welding.

"I was a member of the second section of the first graduating class from the New York State Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences in 1948. The student body consisted of recent high school graduates like me and returning World War II veterans. Since classes were held on a quarterly basis and there was no air conditioning, we held many summer classes outside."
– Stanley Bergman '48



"I remember NYSIAAS, New Hartford, and our single building. No dorms, but apartments here and there. Our small enrollment created close friendships, and we still meet on the impressive campus, to grant scholarships each year – gifts from the Class of '53."
– Sally Thomson '53

1960s

Then: MVCC's new campus on Sherman Drive was designed to serve 1,000 to 2,000 students. The Academic Building featured an open-air courtyard in the center, with trees and benches for students to sit and study. The campus had four dorms, which housed 330 students, that opened in 1966. The college began building Payne Hall in 1968.

Now: MVCC serves more than 7,000 students on its Utica and Rome campuses. The college has made tremendous changes to the Utica campus, including filling in the Academic Building Courtyard to make more space for classrooms and offices. The Utica campus also has added a fifth dormitory, which allows the college to house 505 students.

"In our first year at MVTI, the Mechanical and Electrical students attended their technical classes in an old factory building in Downtown Utica (the State Street buildings). English and Humanities classes were conducted in the old New Hartford building uptown. The class of 1961 was the first group of seniors that were on the new campus at Sherman Drive." – Charles W. Ulrich '61





1970s

Then: In 1970, MVCC's Nursing program, which began in 1964, received 10-year accreditation from the National League for Nursing. The program was headed by Dr. Beverly Warner, who was professor and Nursing Department head until 1975, when she was named dean of the Division of Public Health and Services. The 1970s also saw a renaissance of art at MVCC as the college began offering a Fine Arts program in conjunction with Munson-Williams-Proctor School of Art.

Now: Today, MVCC's Nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and the New York State Education Department and has become quite competitive. Students get "hands-on experience" starting the first semester, and can take courses on the Utica and Rome campuses, which both feature state-of-the-art Nursing Learning Resource Centers. MVCC's Fine Arts program continues to thrive, now on its own

"When I was at MVCC, we had the classroom building, student union building, dorms and gymnasium. I lived off campus and had an apartment with three other classmates. We had a really great campus radio station that played music from Iron Butterfly, Led Zeppelin, Jefferson Airplane, etc. We also had some really great live concerts at MVCC, such as Chicago, Steam and a great regional group that played a few times called Brass Buttons."
 — Clive Goodwin '70

1980s

Then: The 1980s were a time of tremendous growth for MVCC. The college added such programs as Aircraft Maintenance, Photonics, Mechanical Drafting, and Architectural/Civil Drafting. The college added buildings on both campuses, including the Science and Technology Building on the Utica campus, which opened in 1989. In place of a traditional ribbon-cutting, participants cut a fiber-optic cable, symbolic of the college's commitment to contemporary technological education.



Now: The college continues its commitment to technology and is constantly working to make sure students have the most contemporary tools to aid in their education. This includes state-of-the-art labs, computer equipment, and smart classrooms, as well as the latest assistive technology for students with disabilities.

"When I graduated high school I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, but I needed the tools to get there. I found those at MVCC. Many of my professors were retired members of law enforcement, and this brought credibility to their teaching. Several friends I met at MVCC have gone on to careers in law enforcement, and like me, have fond memories of our time there. In 2004, I came full circle when I started teaching at the Mohawk Valley Regional Police Academy."— Steve Hauck '89

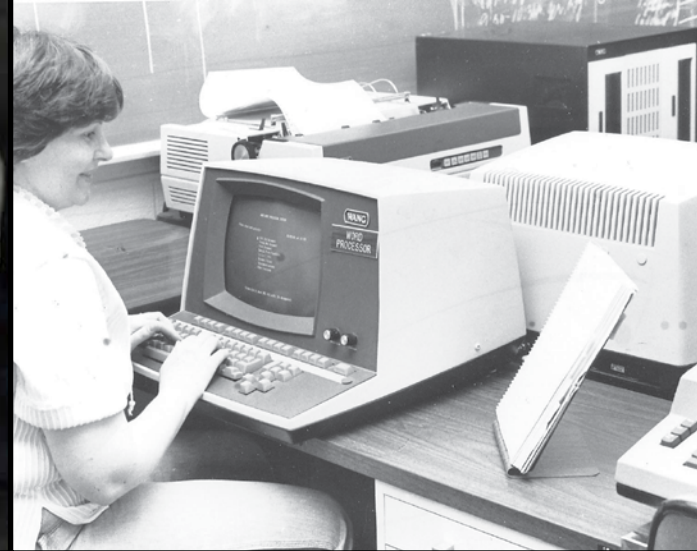
1990s

Then: MVCC's enrollment continued to climb into the 1990s, resulting in the need for more space and new options. Rome's Plumley Complex was formally dedicated in 1991, giving that campus more unity in one building. The college also began renovating Payne Hall to create a more centralized Student Service Center. The construction displaced about 5,000 students for the Fall semester and they had to find their way to classrooms in six temporary buildings set up for the renovations.

Now: Payne Hall's Student Service Center is a bustling hub that connects students with any services they might need while attending MVCC. Financial Aid, Advising, the Registrar, Placement Testing, and the Business Office all share space in one location on the first floor of Payne Hall, serving more students than ever.



"When I was a Residence Hall student in 1995, only four dorms existed. And back then students didn't have a variety of options when it came to food. You either ate in the dining hall or in the snack bar. Now there is a Pizza Hut on campus, as well as Stack's Deli."— Kenyetta Ivy '98



2000s

Then: The early 2000s were a time of growth for the health programs at MVCC. New degree and certificate programs were added, and the use of human cadavers was introduced, making MVCC the only community college in New York State to allow students to do human cadaver dissections. The 2000s also gave MVCC a new building, the IT Building on the Utica campus, which has conference space, smart classrooms and computer labs, and a theater with seating for 500 people.

Now: MVCC has become a major player in educating health care leaders. The college now offers degree programs in EMS/Paramedics, Radiologic Technology, Medical Assisting, Respiratory Care and Nursing, with certificate programs in Allied Health Care, Medical Assistant and Surgical Technology. As our programs grow, so do our facilities and capabilities.



"MVCC professors believed in me before I believed in myself, and now I feel that anything is possible. The work I've done with Student Congress and the community service I've done at MVCC have shown me the importance of working with and helping others, something that will help me for the rest of my life."— John Coleman '12

Do you have a memory to share? Send them to mkohl@mvcc.edu with "Class Notes" in the subject line. Please include your name, major and graduation year, as well as what you have been up to lately.



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Foundation scholarships making futures brighter for MVCC students

There were many reasons for Samantha Savage of Canastota to choose Mohawk Valley Community College.

For one, she knew that Johnson & Wales, the school she ultimately plans to transfer to, would accept all of the credits she receives at MVCC.

But she also was awarded the Exceptional Student Scholarship, which allows her to attend MVCC tuition-free in a major perfectly suited to her goals.

"I always loved to cook, bake and create," she says. "And this scholarship has allowed me to pursue my culinary dreams without the financial burden."

The MVCC Foundation awards more than 450 scholarships each year, amounting to more than \$275,000, making the opportunity for an affordable education a reality for students like Savage, who graduated in the top 10 percent of her high school class, a requirement of the Exceptional Student Scholarship and the Presidential Scholarship, both of which offer free tuition to local high school graduates with outstanding GPAs.

"The MVCC Foundation is built upon helping students reach their goals and giving them some financial support if they need it," says Frank DuRoss, executive director of Institutional Advancement at MVCC. "We try to help remove the financial barriers that keep students from starting or completing their college education."

The college that offers more than 90 degree programs to students from every walk of life also has 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 female students, underserved students, veterans, and returning adults.

The Daron Malik Jae Simpson Memorial Scholarship, for example, was created specifically for single mothers, and preference is given to minority residents of Utica who demonstrate financial need and who have taken the initiative to personally improve their lives and that of their families. The scholarship was started by Robert Lacell in memory of his grandson, Daron Malik Jae Simpson, who lost his life in an act of violence at just 2½ years old in 2004.

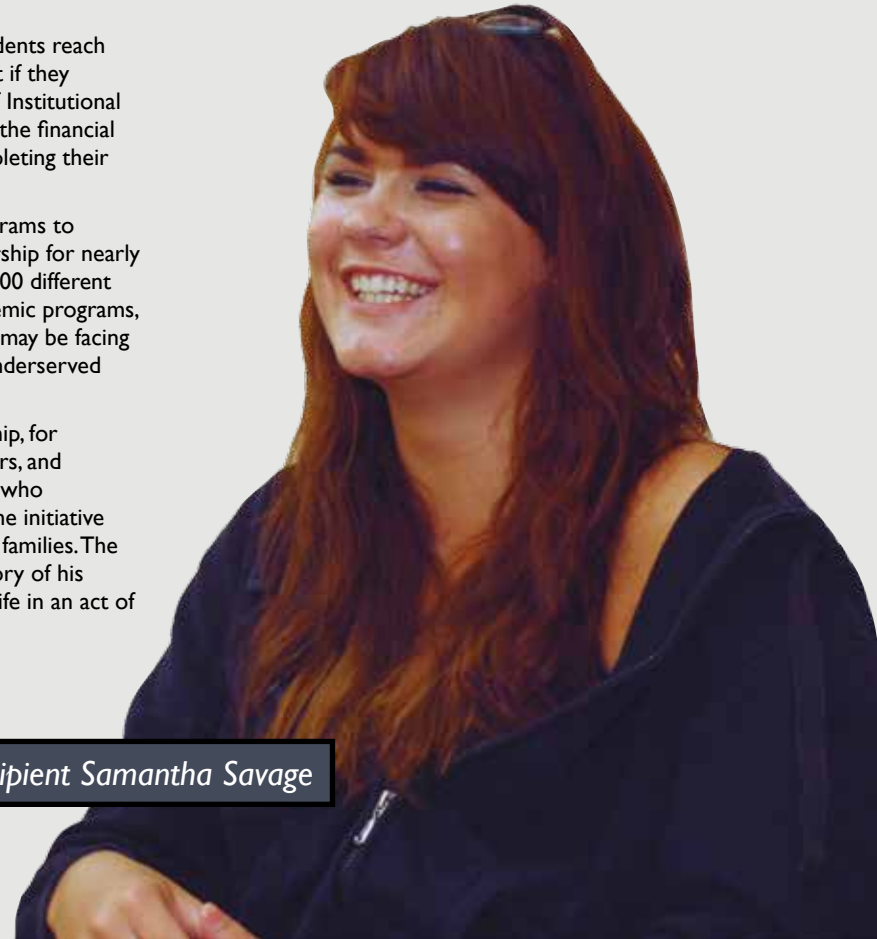
Shortly after Daron was born, Lacell began setting aside money to help pay for his grandson's future education. By the time Daron was killed, Lacell had saved about \$1,000, which he used to start the scholarship. Because Daron's mother, Elizabeth Lacell, was a single, minority mother, Robert Lacell and his family wanted to help the mothers of children in similar situations.

"We couldn't just let his life slip away without having it count for something," said Lacell, MVCC's retired public information director. "So this is an effort to memorialize Daron and tell the world that Daron was here and he still is here in many ways."

For many donors, giving to MVCC is a way of investing in the educational and financial future of the Mohawk Valley. Last year, the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties Inc. made a \$100,000 grant to MVCC's Presidential Scholarship Fund.

"The Community Foundation is committed to funding this community's future and education is key to that future," said Peggy O'Shea, president and CEO of The Community Foundation.

For more information about creating a scholarship or donations call 315-792-5555.



Exceptional Student Scholarship recipient Samantha Savage

Greetings from the Alumni Association

The vision of Mohawk Valley Community College is “to transform lives by creating an innovative learning environment that meets the needs of our rapidly changing communities,” and I have watched MVCC evolve in many ways to meet those needs.

As someone always fascinated by and working with technology, I am proud to be part of such a progressive institution that recognizes the importance of the latest technology in helping our students get the most out of their MVCC experience.

I came to MVCC after a 20-year career in the U.S. Navy, where I served as a communications radioman from 1962 to 1982. I graduated from MVCC in 1984 with a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology, and started working at MVCC in December 1984 in the Information Technology Department as a computer repairman. I also taught as an adjunct instructor for the Electrical Technology Department. At that time we had fewer than 100 personal computers – Apples and Commodore 64s.

Today, MVCC has 26 PC labs and two Mac labs on the Utica campus for academic use, each equipped with between 12 and 20 computers. On the Rome campus, there is a 25-seat Open Lab. All of the PC labs support the latest Microsoft Office Suite, and there are many specialized applications available for specific departmental programs in specific labs so that all of MVCC's students should have access to the hardware and software they need to complete projects and stay ahead of the technological curve. All of the academic computers have high-speed Internet access via a fiber optic Ethernet backbone. The college also provides network connectivity in every classroom, and many rooms have been converted to “Smart Classrooms” in which instructors can use various multimedia in their presentations.

I retired in 2005 as a Systems Engineer, and am always impressed by MVCC's ability to keep up with the latest technology. I joined the Alumni Association a few years ago and have worked on various committees, being elected as vice president, and now president. The Alumni Association has also embraced technological advances and has created a Facebook group that any MVCC alumnus can join to keep up on alumni news and events. It's a great way to connect with your college and the college community. Search for MVCC Alumni Association on Facebook, and join us today!

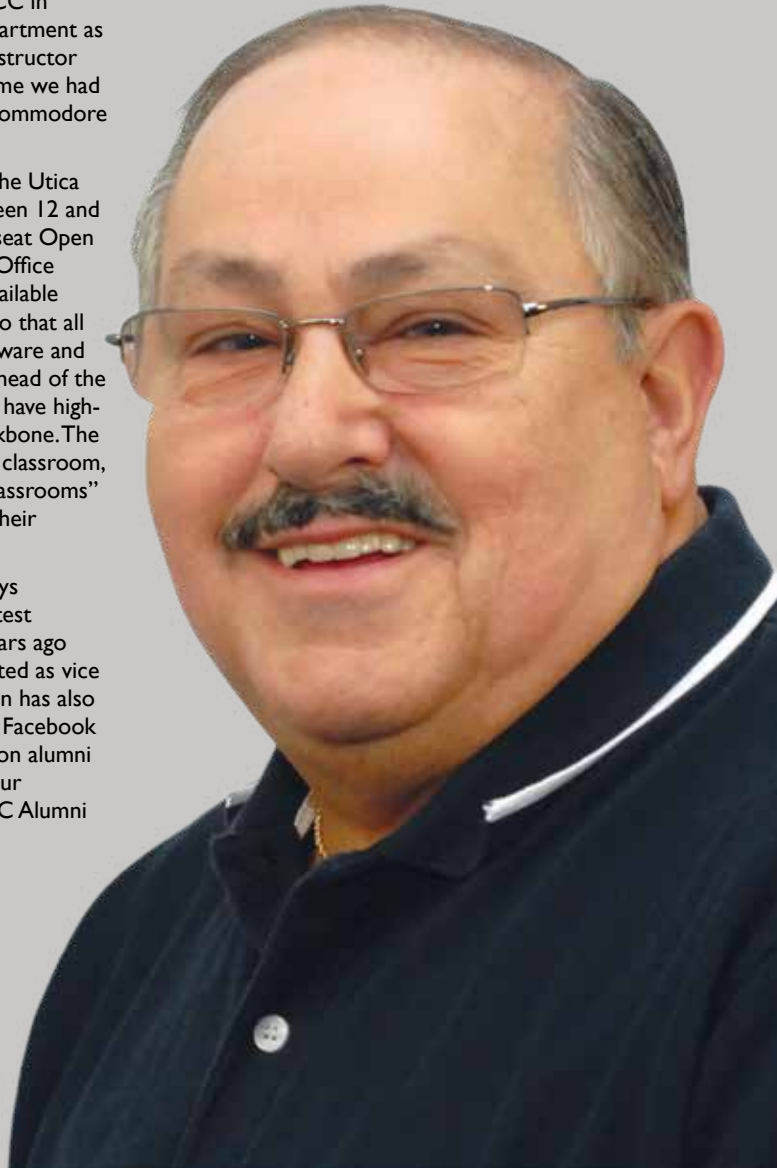
Sincerely,

Eugene Militello '84

President, MVCC Alumni Association

A new MVCC alumni directory on the way

MVCC's Hawks have landed across the country and around the world, so the MVCC Alumni Association is working with Harris Connect on an alumni directory that will help connect us all. It will include biographical listings with contact information, career overviews, and family highlights of your classmates. You may have received a postcard, email or phone call from Harris to make sure our data is up-to-date. Please help us make this publication full of the latest information about you and your fellow Hawks. Thank you in advance for your participation.



Meet Mo Hawk, MVCC's new mascot

Mohawk Valley Community College has a new mascot, and the college's students got to choose the name through a contest on social media.

“Mo” was the name most suggested by students, as well as the name that the Athletics, Institutional Advancement, and Marketing departments agreed was a suitable moniker for the bright green hawk that is sure to drum up school spirit at sporting events, as well as grab attention at public events. MVCC held a contest on its Facebook page, asking students to suggest names for the mascot. More than 150 people responded to the Facebook post. The college unveiled Mo at the annual Midnight Madness basketball event, and he has subsequently been spotted around campus cavorting with students and raising awareness of the college at public events.

Look for me at the next athletic event you attend!





Class Notes

1960s

Peter Parsons '63 graduated from MVCC on the Dean's List and received his AAS degree in Advertising Design and Production. He graduated in 1965 from Boston University with a BS in Public Relations. He went to work at Carrier Corp. and was drafted in 1966. He spent almost two years in Germany working for the 8th Infantry Division as the sports writer for the division newspaper in Public Affairs. When he returned to civilian life, he took a business leave of absence to complete his MS in Communications Management at Syracuse University.

His work history included sales training at Carrier Air Conditioning, marketing publicity management at Carrier International, Singer-Link Flight Simulation, Vickers, TRINOVA and Eaton Corp. He has traveled on business and has visited almost every country in the world. He attended the Apollo 17 moon launch with President Nixon and six Space Shuttle launches.

Peter has also written cover stories for many major trade magazines, including Scientific American, Aviation Week and Space Technology and Forbes. He was interviewed by Andy Rooney for "60 Minutes" and was on the team of one of the first companies to exhibit in China in the 1980s. He also was hosted by the government for the first US/China Thanksgiving dinner in the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square. He thanks MVCC for his higher educational start.

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

Michael Gallagher '66 thanks MVCC for a great two years of academic study. He and his fiancé just returned from a weeklong trip, visiting both Ireland and London.

Ronald Duck '67 was a Scholar Athlete (Baseball) at MVCC with an AAS Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. His coach, Robert Jorgensen, was his inspiration to excel in life, and he has instilled those principles in his two wonderful children. His daughter Ami is an interior designer who owns her own business in San Diego, Calif.

His son became a professional baseball player with the Colorado Rockies and is now an aerospace engineer working for Honeywell in San Diego, Calif. Ronald and his wife, Elaine, have been married for 41 years and now live in Irvine, Calif. After receiving his degree from MVCC, he earned a BS degree from the University of Rochester and an MS degree in applied mathematical statistics from RIT. He is currently retired and works part time in his Lean Six Sigma Consulting Business, traveling around the world for major fortune 500 companies, such as Xerox Corp., Schlumberger, and Zurich Insurance. "It has been a wonderful life for me and my family and I want to thank Coach Jorgensen for setting me in the right direction and to MVCC for taking a chance on accepting me into their college," he says.

1970s

Henry Rosoff '70 received his BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona, and his master's in public administration from the University of Colorado. After completing a career in the US Air Force in 1994, he was a Public Works Department director for the Bernalillo County Public Works Division for five years, then manager of the Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, N.M., for four years. He recently began work as the government and public liaison for Telck-Hensley Engineering Group (THE Group) in Albuquerque. Henry has been married 31 years to Denise McCoid Rosoff and has two children, David, who is studying for a doctorate in mathematics at University of Washington, and Katie, a junior majoring in psychology and sociology at Boston University.

Bruce Novom '72 is a doctor of chiropractic. He has an office in North Adams and Pittsfield, Mass.

Georgia Roberts Shurts '73 retired from teaching 33 years with Fairfax County School in Northern Virginia and Florida. Georgia and Bob enjoy volunteering for the Road to Victory Museum and Stuart Air Show in Stuart, Fla., with her brother Colonel Michael Roberts. She loves traveling and spending time with her family in Utica, Virginia and Florida.

Meridith (Meri) Whitaker '72 went from MVCC to Brockport and received a degree in PE. She taught school for four years and returned to Seminary at Gordon Conwell in Massachusetts. She is now a United Methodist Missionary serving the Cherokee Tribe in Eastern Oklahoma, where she lives on a 30-acre ranch and has been there for 25 years. She also is a pastor of a small church for people in recovery from drugs and alcohol and has

1980s

Dewey Rowlands '80 has been appointed to the position of vice president of finance for Oneida Healthcare. He has been serving as controller for the organization since 1988. Dewey lives in Whitesboro with his wife, Pamela. They have two daughters, Nicole and Karli, who are currently attending New York Law and SUNY Oswego, respectively.

Frank Kovacs '81 went on to SUNY Buffalo and earned his business management BS degree in 1999. Frank co-founded Shannon Enterprises in 1988. Shannon Enterprises is the manufacturer of Insultech, Thermal, and Acoustic Blanket Insulation. It employs 65 people, and has worldwide sales of \$6.5 million. More information can be found at www.Blanket-Insulation.com.

Ken Corpus '81 graduated from MVCC with a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology and moved to Rochester to work for Xerox for 20 years. He went to night school at RIT and obtained a bachelor's degree in the same field. He started his own business called Computer Works Pro 10 years ago and is celebrating the one-year anniversary of a new store in the Webster-Penfield area. His company website is www.ComputerWorksPro.com, or find him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/computerworkspro.

Joseph Furner '85 has his doctorate in Math Education. He is a professor of math education at Florida Atlantic University. Joseph also wrote a book in 2009 called "Living Well."

Thomas Brown '86 earned his degree from Mohawk Valley Community College in Engineering Science. He works as operations coordinator for Novelis Corporation.

1990s

Robert Baldwin '92 spent more than 10 years working as an electronic technician and manufacturing specialist at PAR Tech. He has taken the step to full retirement, and is enjoying freedom from the working world.

2000s

Daniel Hebert, Esq. '07 graduated from Mohawk Valley Community College with an AS in Business Administration. He graduated from SUNY Buffalo Law School in June of 2011, and was admitted into the New York State Bar in February of 2012. He formed a law firm with partner Richard J. Morrisroe, Esq., called Morrisroe Hebert LLP, located in Buffalo, New York.



Send us your news!

Alumni may submit Class Notes for future issues to mkohl@mvcc.edu with "Class Notes" in the subject line. Please include your name, graduation year, and your major, as well as some information about what you've been up to lately. Also remember to keep your contact information up to date so we can stay connected.

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MVCC Women Are National Soccer Champs

The Mohawk Valley Community College Lady Hawks are National Soccer Champions, having won the NJCAA Division III women's championship against Gloucester Community College.

MVCC, the top-ranked team in Division III, was unbeaten in the last 15 games – 14-0-1 – to finish 21-1-1 and claim its second national title. The Hawks, who have won five Region III championships, also won in 2003, the first year of Division III post-season play.

MVCC's Mia DeGironimo was the 2012 National Championship Tournament MVP, and Samantha Getman was the Tournament Offensive MVP. Coach of the Tournament was MVCC's Steve Senior.

"We worked so hard," said Getman. "We definitely deserved it."

The Hawk defense and goalie Vanessa Jecko also were instrumental in the win. Jecko made 10 saves. The MVCC defense – DeGironimo, Nicole Burline, Brittany McGraw-Wixson, Kaitlyn Lauzon and Brianna Catrombone – was solid throughout.

Meghan Carlo, Meghan Gaffney and Jecko were named to the all-tournament team in addition to the honors for DeGironimo and Getman.

MVCC dedicates theater in honor of President Emeritus Schafer

In September, Mohawk Valley Community College ceremonially celebrated the achievements of its longest-serving president by dedicating the Utica Campus Theater as the newly named "Dr. Michael I. Schafer Theater."

In renaming the Theater after Schafer, the MVCC Board of Trustees recognized how his vision led to the creation of one of the community's signature performance and gathering spaces; as well as the significant impacts Schafer had on tens of thousands of MVCC students, the college, and the community during his tenure.

Schafer served as MVCC's president from 1983-2007, when he retired and was granted emeritus status by the board. His length of service remains one of the longest in the history of SUNY community colleges, and his tenure at the college was marked by significant transformations in MVCC's campuses, academic offerings, and community partnerships.



In 2001, the College completed a \$21 million renovation of the Utica Campus – including the construction of the Information Technology Building in which the Schafer Theater is housed – and the installation of a Steinway 150th Anniversary grand piano that has become one of the Theater's signature sounds. Other major improvements during Schafer's presidency included the opening of the Plumley Complex on the Rome Campus, construction of the Science and Technology Building, construction of a new 155-bed residence hall on the Utica Campus, and reviews of intercollegiate athletic facilities and Rome Campus facilities that have continued to influence the College's Master Plan and physical plant.

Under Schafer, nearly 20 new academic programs were introduced and the college made significant forays into connecting with other local testing, training, and education partners including the Mohawk Valley Police Academy. Significant partnerships were undertaken with the Utica City School District and the Rome City School District, and MVCC participated in the formation of the Mohawk Valley College Consortium. Assets of the MVCC Foundation grew from approximately \$87,000 to more than \$2 million.

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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