



Foundation

2018 YEAR-END SUMMARY & ALUMNI NEWS

Steven
Smith '07

CREATING STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

REVITALIZING OUR ECONOMY

BREAKING BARRIERS

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

**MOHAWK VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

December 31, 2018

Greetings from the MVCC Foundation!

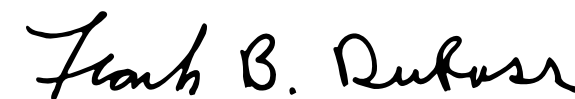
As 2018 comes to a close, we find ourselves looking back on another year of supporting student success and improving lives in our College and community. Innovative new initiatives add to the impact of our vision, to transform lives through learning, and give our students more opportunities to succeed in higher education than ever before.

Thanks to your support, we were able to launch several new scholarships in 2018, helping to create even more opportunities for students and alleviate some of the cost of college tuition. Your support also allowed us to expand our Day of Giving to a Week of Giving, which ran for 72 hours in October to raise funds for the new outdoor athletics facility at our Utica Campus. A short-term giving campaign in May helped to raise awareness and funds for the MVCC Presidential Scholarship Fund, which allows Oneida County students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class to come to MVCC tuition-free. We also were able to help students in need through our Emergency Relief Fund program, which helps students in surmounting barriers ranging from the cost of textbooks and materials to transportation and more.

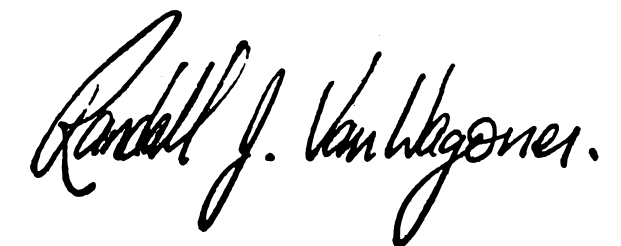
It also was a great year for many of our graduates, who are having an impact in industry around the country and making a difference in the lives of people right here in the Mohawk Valley. The MVCC Foundation is working on better ways to communicate with our alumni and build a stronger network of Hawks who are connected to the College in meaningful ways.

Learn about their stories, as well as the ways your support has helped us make this another year of excellence. We look forward to 2019.

Sincerely,



Frank B. DuRoss
Vice President for Community Development, MVCC
Executive Director, MVCC Foundation, Inc.



Randall J. VanWagoner, Ph.D.
President, MVCC

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STEVEN SMITH '07

Steven Smith '07 has been creating art for as long as he can remember. His family moved frequently around New York State for his father's job, which meant Smith was often the new kid who spent time alone drawing.

"As a kid I was obsessed with the book series 'Goosebumps,' and would re-draw and color copies of the cover illustrations for fun," Smith says. "I was partial to doing things by myself since it took time to make new friends, so I had a lot of time where I was drawing and reading comics."

His high school painting teacher at Jordan-Elbridge Central School in Skaneateles, Terry Bondgren, is the first person who encouraged Smith to pursue a major in Illustration.

"She told me that Mohawk Valley was known for having a strong art department," he says. "MVCC was the only college I applied for out of high school based solely on her guidance. If it wasn't for her encouragement, I wouldn't be where I am today."

"I remember not having a clear direction when I first started college, and I didn't know what I was doing — but MVCC quickly immersed me in the kinds of creative problem-solving that I find myself doing every day in my career."

Where he is today is quite impressive. Smith, an art director based out of Los Angeles, specializes in creating posters and concept art for production studios in the film and video game industries. Among his clients are Warner Bros., Universal Pictures, Focus Features, Sony Pictures, Netflix, Hulu, and Showtime. He's already racking up awards, including Best Documentary Poster at the Golden Trailer Awards in 2017 for his design for "Lo and Behold: Reveries of the Connected World," filmmaker Werner Herzog's history of the internet. That poster also was listed among Rotten Tomatoes' and Indie-Wire's Best Movie Posters of 2016 selections.

But getting to this point was not easy for Smith, who faced a series of rejections along the way. He applied to many design studios in New York City that never responded. He even had a freelance trial gig at Penguin Publishing, which required a harrowing trip to Manhattan for an interview and a week of design work and stress, but that, too, ended in rejection.

"I was devastated," he says. "I basically sat there in tears thinking my life was over, that I was destined to make used car ads until I was an old man shoveling snow out of my parents' driveway."

But things did turn around for Smith, thanks in part to his MVCC education.

"I describe MV as sort of a battle training station for the artist," he says, describing the Illustration classes, specifically, as a crash course in technique and philosophy, where students can experiment with different media and decide on their weapon of choice. "Charcoal or pastels? Oils or digital? I remember not having a clear direction when I first started college, and I didn't know what I was doing — but MVCC quickly immersed me in the kinds of creative problem-solving that I find myself doing every day in my career."

Smith says he also enjoyed the variety of classes offered at MVCC, and the mentorship he found in his instructors, specifically Professors Jed Kimball and James Vitale of the Art Department.





“They shared their professional insight with how I was developing creatively,” he says. “Jed would tell me stories of his experience living in New York City while he attended the New York Academy of Art, and it was easy to relate to him as a young artist.”

Smith also praises the program’s curriculum structure, which resulted in “very strong pieces” for his portfolio and a natural progression of his work. After his first year of foundation classes, Smith says his second year was focused on producing high-quality pieces using techniques he learned the previous year. He says he found the fourth-semester class, Professional Practices for Illustrators, especially enlightening.

“That class in itself really set me up in many ways,” he says. “I created my portfolio website in that class — the same one I use today. We learned about self-promotion and reaching out to creative directors, how to create an invoice, and how to break down monthly expenses if we were to freelance professionally. I started MVCC with nothing, really, and when I left in 2007 I had a portfolio and a ton of knowledge and confidence that I used to get into my next college and future jobs.”

From MVCC, Smith went on to study illustration at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, where he first got into promotional poster design. “I was friends with a lot of film students who needed promotional material designed for their short films,” he says. Smith was able to use this work during his last year of art school to get an internship at a poster-design studio, where he got his first taste of working in a professional design space.

After graduating from SVA in 2010, Smith moved back home to Syracuse, where he worked at an advertising agency as an assistant art director designing pharmaceutical assets and car ads for local newspapers. He was there four years, but was feeling the urge to go west.



“My younger brother had been living in Los Angeles for a few years at this point, and I knew of ad agencies in Hollywood that were creating key art for TV and film,” Smith says.

Two years before Smith moved to L.A., he visited his brother and scheduled some portfolio reviews with a handful of small agencies around the city. He says overall it was positive, but most studios told him the same thing: They’d give him a shot at a freelance junior designer position — but only if he lived in L.A.

“I knew in my heart that I could at the very least get some kind of freelance opportunity if I only lived there, so for the better part of a year and a half, I worked a second job at night serving tables at a P.F. Chang’s,” Smith says. “I banked every penny I could, and once I had about six months of living expenses saved, I put in my two weeks’ notice and hopped on a plane to California.”



After reaching out to some of the agencies he had connected with previously, Smith landed a freelance gig that quickly turned into a full-time job at a small, art-house style poster shop. His first big assignment was the movie “Batman v Superman” — one he will never forget.

“I didn’t get any finishes out of it, but it was the first big project I worked on when I moved to L.A.,” he says. “I remember sitting at my desk with the brief in front of me, and I felt like I was in ‘The Twilight Zone.’ It was sunny outside, a creative director who had worked in Hollywood for years was giving me a chance to work with a team of designers on posters for one of the largest films in comic book history, and the marketing team at Warner Bros. was going to see my work! It made me realize that I was moving toward my dream and not against it. I was making choices in my career that were resonating fully in my heart, and that feeling will always be in my memory.”

When asked what advice he would give to students, Smith has the perfect analogy for pursuing a dream and not giving up.

“Treat your career goals like your long-awaited dream vacation,” Smith says. “If you want to go to Cabo, you better find the best hotels in Cabo. Just work really hard, plan, research, have a map. Maybe you won’t get to Cabo, but you end up finding an awesome resort in Cancun, which is still pretty awesome.”



Photo Credit: GE

DR. MARSHALL JONES '62

Dr. Marshall Jones '62 is the embodiment of perseverance and determination.

Jones, who earned his associate degree in Mechanical Technology from MVCC in 1962 (back when it was Mohawk Valley Technical Institute), is now a General Electric engineer who holds more than 50 U.S. patents and is recognized as one of the foremost authorities in the field of laser material processing. In 2017, he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for his pioneering work on industrial lasers, joining the ranks of innovation giants such as Nikola Tesla, Thomas Edison, and the Wright Brothers.

But he didn't have it easy — Jones faced many obstacles on his path to success. He grew up working hard on his family's duck ranch in Long Island and excelled in sports, dreaming of becoming an athlete and coach. While always gifted in math, Jones had to repeat the fourth grade because of his reading skills. As a teenager, his dreams of becoming a pilot were dashed when he found out his vision was too poor to pursue that career path. Then a high school injury prevented him from getting the wrestling scholarship he was banking on at Rochester Institute of Technology, which he thought would be his ticket to a college education. His high school counselor suggested he consider two-year colleges, where he could use his math, science, and mechanical drawing skills.

"After visiting three or four two-year schools, it was apparent that MVCC had the best program in Mechanical Technology, which appeared to be my cup of tea," Jones says.



Photo Credit: GE

"The Mechanical Technology program was truly my sweet spot. The hard work paid off, as I went from a B student in high school to an A student at MVCC."

But the obstacles kept coming. Jones faced experiences with racism during his time as a student. He was the only African-American in MVCC's Mechanical Technology program, and was refused admittance to the first house he was assigned in Utica because of his race. Then, while representing the College's Circle K service organization at an international conference in Florida, he was unable to register at a hotel there.

Despite the setbacks, Jones made the most of his MVCC experience, and says the College helped him to be a good student. "The Mechanical Technology program was truly my sweet spot," he says. "The hard work paid off, as I went from a B student in high school to an A student at MVCC."

Jones says he had great teachers at MVCC and especially enjoyed his machine tool labs and mechanical drawing classes. He also appreciated that the College had a co-op program, which allowed him the opportunity to get real life, hands-on experience in a lab.

Jones finished second in his Mechanical Technology class and credits MVCC with preparing him for the mechanical engineering program at the University of Michigan, which was rated fourth in the nation, where he earned his bachelor's degree.

"I was always thankful that MVCC opened the door to Michigan," he says. "The classroom competition was tough. Without a doubt, having a good work ethic has been beneficial throughout my engineering career."



“invented novel methods to weld dissimilar metals and developed fiber optic systems making lasers much more convenient for industrial applications.”

In the mid-1970s, Jones invented a technique using a laser to rapidly weld copper and aluminum. In 1982, he initiated research and development of fiber-optic laser-beam delivery systems, which resulted in a laser beam powerful enough to cut steel, titanium, and nickel-based alloys. In 1988, Jones developed a laser-welding system using fiber-optic cables to simultaneously split a laser beam and heat opposite sides of a workpiece.

“I had never seen a real laser in graduate school, but I knew how they worked from the solid state physics course my advisor had me take to augment my materials study,” Jones says. “In joining GE Global Research, my manager had a GE laser in the lab that didn’t work. His question to me was, could I get it to work, and what could I do with it from a material interaction standpoint?”



Jones says he understood materials at some level because it was his minor in graduate school. He eventually got that laser to work and successfully demonstrated the welding of copper to aluminum conductors, which ended up being the topic of his first patent.

“Over the years, I have assisted every business in GE in their use of laser technology for materials processing,” he says. “It’s been very exciting coming up with laser-based solutions to help the company’s businesses.”

Jones has received many honors and accolades for his work over the years. He was named Black Engineer of the Year in 1994, and was named to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering and the MVCC Hall of Fame in 2001. He received the MVCC Alumni of Merit Award in 1984, and National Society of Black Engineers Pioneer of the Year Golden Torch Award in 1999. He also received an honorary doctor of science degree from SUNY through MVCC.

He says he couldn’t believe it when the National Inventors Hall of Fame contacted him with the news of his induction. “I was walking around pinching myself for a few days to make sure I wasn’t dreaming.”

Jones also enjoys sharing his story with young people, inspiring them to dream big and to never give up.

“Many times, my presentation will include some version of a laser presentation or show,” he says. “An example is when I go to the Riverhead School District on Long Island, where I went to school. They bus in all the fourth-graders to the high school so that I can speak to them. I often tell folks that I believe you can tell a fourth-grader anything and they will believe it. It was local elementary school teachers who encouraged me to write the children’s book, ‘Never Give Up, the Marshall Jones Story.’ They thought that I could reach more children if there was a book telling my story.”

The book was self-published and is currently out of print, but Jones says he has been asked to republish it. “It’s my intention to do so, but I want to add a chapter to catch up on what has happened over the last decade or so.”



“I couldn’t believe it, but it all worked out. Whether these were obstacles or disappointments, the thought was to never give up.”

Jones went on to earn master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Massachusetts. While he excelled in math and engineering, he still struggled with some subjects. For example, he had to re-write poetry-related assignments while at Michigan in order to pass an English course. “Then I had to retake the Ph.D. qualifiers exam in math, of all things,” he says. “I couldn’t believe it, but it all worked out. Whether these were obstacles or disappointments, the thought was to never give up.”

He began his career at GE Labs in 1974, joining a group of scientists exploring semiconductors and lasers. Building on their work, Jones pioneered the use of lasers for industrial materials processing. According to the Hall of Fame website, Jones

RICK SHORT '81

FOCUSED ON YOUTH, CONNECTIONS, FUTURE

From humble beginnings, Rick Short '81 has achieved great success. But talking about his accomplishments always brings him back to the same theme: building up others so they can achieve their full potential.

Short is corporate associate vice president and senior director of marketing communications at Indium Corporation, as well as a social activist who supports and promotes education, engagement, and modeling the way to improve the Mohawk Valley and the lives of those in it.

"This community is really, really different," he says. "The energy is palpable. It's the people that make the difference."

His focus on community and developing future generations is evident in everything he does. He is an integral part of the local community, providing mentorship to high school and college students, as well as young adults. He is a mentor for the Utica College Young Scholars program, and serves on its advisory board, selection committee, and mentor advisory board. He also is a mentor and volunteer at

the Midtown Utica Community Center, and serves and supports students and faculty in the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES P-TECH program.

Short credits his employer, Indium Corporation, for inspiring and enabling his community service activities.

"I love to cultivate new leaders and fire up our replacements," Short says. "I work so hard at that through mentorship. I tell them, 'Don't worry about being good someday ... you already are. Just keep getting better.'"

Many of the students he mentors are from refugee families who don't have the community connections others may have, so he works to provide them. Short says, "I emphasize networking and tell them, 'it's not what you know, and it's not who you know; it's who knows you.' You've got to be known."



For many of these students, being known is difficult. Some are economically challenged and don't have a supportive home life. Some have been trained culturally to shrink back while everyone else steps forward, especially in an academic setting. "To them, a professor is like a god," he says. "They are afraid to ask questions."

To overcome that barrier, Short brings students to MVCC and connects them with staff in the President's Office, Admissions, Financial Aid, Community Education, and other key areas. "They feel really special when the president knows their name," he says.

"I don't see a 14-year-old kid. I see a person who, one day, will be responsible for a whole pyramid of other people. I see that impact."

Short's weekly "Cookie Tuesdays" at the Midtown Utica Community Center help to build trust while vulnerable populations learn math, baking skills, and procedures — all under the guise of making cookies.

"They think it's just cookies, but it's not that at all," he says. "They bake cookies week after week, and one day they say, 'I have to have a resumé. What's a resumé?' ... And the real work begins. Once they know me, only then can they trust me. And once they trust me, they can start opening up and asking some real questions."

Once they get to know and trust him, Short will open up about his own life, and how it relates to theirs and his understanding of where they are coming from.

"Sometimes I feel they think I'm this magical thing that just rolled in from some special place," he says. "But I tell them, 'I understand you. I've lived some of your life. I don't see a 14-year-old kid. I see a person who, one day, will be responsible for a whole pyramid of other people. I see that impact.'"

To prove his point, he will drive them through their own neighborhood and point out the spot where he rented an apartment while he was an MVCC student. "The apartment was so rotten that it just collapsed on us — while we were in it — in the middle of a cold December night," he says. "I had to hand-dig people out of this house that fell in on us. That's how poor I was."



“I was hanging by a thread. MVCC gave me that sense of professionalism, scientific principles, integrity, and high expectations.”

Short came to MVCC on a New York State Regents Scholarship. “It wasn’t a full ride, but it really mattered,” he says. “And it was quality. MVCC had reputation for academic excellence, and the teachers had a reputation for being tough and demanding.”

Short said he always appreciated those high standards, especially when he went on to earn his bachelor’s degree at Utica College and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

“If you come from a world with few rules, you need at least one anchor,” he says. “I was hanging by a thread. MVCC gave me that sense of professionalism, scientific principles, integrity, and high expectations.”

MVCC also was important in providing Short with connections of his own. It’s where he met his good friend and colleague, Greg Evans ’79, now president and CEO of Indium Corporation, and it’s where he reconnected with his future wife, Wendy, whom he had originally met in first grade.

Beyond his work with local students, Short also serves the College in other ways: he is the president of the MVCC Foundation Board and serves as a member of the MVCC scholarship selection committee. He served as a speaker at a recent commencement ceremony and was named the MVCC Alumnus of Merit for 2018.

“MVCC has always been with me,” he says. “Not just my classroom experience, but the reputation and its place in the community. It’s on the news, it’s in the stories people tell; and now it’s in the people I hire and work with. It still pumps me up. I feel like we’re flying in formation — I’m responsible for my jet, and, when I look out the window, MVCC is always right beside me.”

NEW INITIATIVES FROM THE FOUNDATION

In 2017-2018, the Foundation’s scholarship committee (supported by subcommittees of faculty and staff) reviewed more than 800 scholarship applications and awarded more than 185 scholarships to students in a wide range of academic programs. More than 45 scholarships were awarded in the Fall 2017 semester, and more than 140 were awarded in the Spring 2018 semester. This represents an increase of approximately 15 percent from the previous year.

“Failure is not an option for me, I have my daughters’ eyes watching their mother striving to improve their lives... I am a determined and dedicated student and will take your investment in me seriously.” – Scholarship Recipient

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS LAUNCHED IN 2018

The John “Laddie” and Alice Leitz Scholarship

supports students in the Airframe and Powerplant program. The scholarship honors the Leitzs’ commitment and contributions to the aviation community. As owners/operators of Frankfort Highland Airport for 45 years who worked closely with pilots and aviation enthusiasts, “Laddie” and Alice were two of the early pioneers in the Mohawk Valley, providing hundreds of individuals the opportunity to fly and/or to become aircraft mechanics. The scholarship fills a significant gap, as the program involves rigorous hands-on training, and many students struggle to afford the tool kits to train with and begin work in the field.

The new Albert Pabin Science Scholarship

supports full-time students in science majors at MVCC, emphasizing support of students’ financial needs and a dedicated education work ethic.

The MVCC Board of Trustees Scholarship

was established by the MVCC Board of Trustees and is available to students actively involved in Student Government. To be considered for this scholarship a student must provide a copy of their co-curricular transcript and include an extra letter of recommendation from a member of the MVCC Student Engagement and Leadership staff who can confirm the student’s participation in Student Government.



The Daniel J. Pieloch, Jr. Memorial Scholarship was established in 2018 to honor the memory of Daniel J. Pieloch, Jr., who was a 1985 Dean’s List graduate of MVCC’s HVAC program. This scholarship provides assistance to an adult returning to college to change careers or start a new career in the HVAC field.

The Larry Brinker, NUAIR Alliance, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Scholarship supports students in the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems program. Larry Brinker is the former CEO of the NUAIR Alliance, a not-for-profit coalition of more than 200 private and public entities and academic institutions working together to operate and oversee Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) testing in New York, Massachusetts, and Michigan. The NUAIR Alliance supports the UAS Test Site at Griffiss International Airport in Rome, N.Y., one of just seven FAA-designated UAS test sites in the nation. Under Brinker’s leadership, the Central New York and Mohawk Valley regions are leading the research and deployment technologies for safe UAS operations in the nation’s airspace, including launching the nation’s first 50-mile corridor for UAS testing.

The NYSTEC Technology Scholarship: NYSTEC is a not-for-profit technology consulting company, advising organizations, agencies, institutions, and businesses since 1996. The NYSTEC Technology Scholarship is open to full-time students majoring in Cybersecurity, with preference given to students taking classes on the Rome Campus.

Coxwell-Davis Memorial Aviation Maintenance Technician Scholarship: In memory of Jonathan E. Coxwell and Richard R. Davis, the Coxwell-Davis Memorial Aviation Maintenance Technician Scholarship was established by the Adirondack Foothills Rotary, the Mohawk Valley Experimental Aircraft Association, the Remsen Development Corporation, and other friends and organizations. Both men had a lifelong passion for all things aviation. This scholarship will assist a worthy student in the Airframe and Powerplant program by covering a portion of the cost of the final FAA Certification exam.

“Raising my four kids and pouring into them for years side-tracked me from developing a career... We are committed to making this work, no matter what.”
– Scholarship Recipient

The Dennis E. Finn Memorial Scholarship supports students in the Airframe and Powerplant program. Dennis E. Finn was an engineer and consultant in the construction and engineering field for over 50 years and was a civic leader in the City of Oneonta. An avid pilot, Finn was involved in the construction of the Oneonta Municipal Airport in the 1960s and most recently served as chairman of the Planning Commission and airport commissioner. This scholarship was established in memory of Finn, who passed away in May 2017. Scholarship winners are announced during Airframe and Powerplant Technology completion ceremonies.

“I am the first out of both my mom and dad’s kids to attend college. I try to work as much as I can to keep stable and on my feet, times sometimes get hard but I always pull through... This scholarship will allow me to finally feel as if I’m getting somewhere and can focus more on school...”
– Scholarship Recipient

“I grew up in a Thai refugee camp... my parents could not afford my basic tuition any longer so I dropped out of the first grade. Since I could not be in school anymore, I was always curious to learn. For this reason, I am motivated today to study...”
– Scholarship Recipient

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

To develop community awareness and support of the MVCC Presidential Scholarship fund, the Foundation launched a short-term giving campaign in May 2018 to promote the scholarship and encourage alumni giving. Efforts to support the online fundraiser included a video created by MVCC Marketing and Communications, postcards mailed to alumni who had been Presidential Scholars during their time at MVCC, and through social media.

Based on the information gathered during this campaign, the MVCC Foundation is currently developing plans for a major awareness campaign to roll out for all incoming Presidential Scholars in future years.

Donor breakdown (duplicative):
40% Faculty / Staff
40% Alumni
7% Parents





Doe Keh '18

Doe Keh's work "Day Dreaming" was selected as a winner in the 2017-18 SUNY Student Art Best of Show.

1970s

Steven James '72, Advertising Design and Production, is currently working as a freelance creative director/graphic designer. He married Robin (Howard) James '72 in 1974, who also received a degree in Advertising Design and Production. Robin currently works as a Labor and Delivery Nurse for Catholic Health in Buffalo, N.Y. The couple has three children and four grandchildren.

1980s

Terrance (Terry) Buczkowski '80 transferred to Buffalo State and obtained his bachelor's degree in industrial technology. He then worked for 16 years for a high-tech electronic automation assembly and software integration company (Universal Instruments Corp) in Binghamton, N.Y., and around the country

and world in varying capacities, including manufacturing, application engineering, sales, and marketing. He held positions as division manager and director of European Operations. After 9/11, Buczkowski left Universal Instruments and became VP of Sales/Marketing and VP Business Development/Communications for American Hockey League affiliates of the NHL Ottawa Senators and New Jersey Devils. In June 2018, he transitioned further to become general manager of the Olympic Center venues in Lake Placid, N.Y., working for the Olympic Regional Development Authority.

Heather Brefka Griswold '80 is office manager for Career Services at the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University. She has been employed by Duke University since 2007, assisting students in obtaining a fulfilling, comprehensive education.

Vincent Mazzei '82, who received his associate degree in Criminal Justice, has returned to the fold at MVCC as a dispatcher in MVCC's Department of Public Safety.

Scott Amaral '84 is currently the chief investigator of the Criminal Investigations Division of the New York State Department of Taxation & Finance for the White Plains and Albany offices.

1990s

Verlon Brown '95 wrote and is starring in "Nat: The Life and Times of Nat King Cole" at the Theater for the New City in New York City. Brown discovered his passion for acting when he was 12 during a stint at a Fresh Air Fund camp in Delaware. He graduated from MVCC in 1995 and fully devoted himself to acting, enrolling in formal acting classes at Queens College. He recently portrayed Nat King Cole in "Nat King Cole: The Vanguard of Avant Garde." For this role, Brown dedicated himself to intensive character study and research, and as a result, he developed a profound respect for Nat King Cole's body of work.

Sam Sabet '95 holds the position of charge nurse in the Department of Defense as a contracted Registered Nurse at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va. Sabet specializes in mental health and substance abuse and rehabilitation.

Andrew Spink '97 was the overall point winner in this year's Top C-store Chef competition during the 2018 Convenience Foodservice Exchange. Spink is R&D Chef for Gate Petroleum, which operates and supplies fuel to nearly 200 locations in four states, including Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas.

2000s

Randy Thomas '04 was recently named athletic director for the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central School District.

Anthony Lanza Jr. '05 was recently promoted to assistant manager of the Research & Development staff at Indium Corporation. Lanza joined Indium as an engineering intern from June 2006 to March 2008. He formally joined the company as an employee in April 2008 as a manufacturing engineer. After graduating from MVCC with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he continued his studies at SUNY Polytechnic Institute earning his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2008. He currently is enrolled in the Master of Science in engineering management program at Clarkson University.

David Leigh '09 moved back to England where he obtained a temporary position in a local bank. He worked his way up and, after seven years, he served as a key stakeholder in the business banking department. Leigh has since moved on for a fresh challenge, working for Barclays head office in Manchester, England.

Meghan Nolan '09 has recently been named nurse manager of Acute Care 1 at the St. Luke's campus of the Mohawk Valley Health System. Nolan earned her associate degree in nursing at MVCC and her bachelor's degree in nursing from Utica College.

2010s

Mike Burke '10 recently finished up a tour for his poetry book "Fragments of a Disturbed Mind"

this past August. Within that time period, he and a friend started a podcast called, "Breaking Bread with Mike and Tom." Burke handles the marketing and most of the networking for the podcast. He currently is working on two original plays that he hopes to premiere next year, querying a novel, designing logos, and doing freelance illustration. In June, he married MVCC alumna Anna McNamara. His book, "Fragments of a Disturbed Mind," is available online, and you can find the podcast, "Breaking Bread with Mike and Tom," online, as well. Find his page on Facebook: @mikedavidburke.

Stone Bogart '16 recently graduated from SUNY Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor's degree and began a Ph.D. program in counseling psychology at Florida State University in Fall 2018.

Logann Dolan '16 transferred to Binghamton University after graduating from MVCC and completed his bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing. He is currently enrolled in Binghamton's Fast-Track One-Year MBA program studying Marketing and business analytics. Upon graduation, he hopes to obtain a position as a career or academic success advisor or begin a career in the field of event planning.

Ryan Htoo '17 currently works with Delta Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors as a civil drafter.

Doe Keh '18 was named one of three winners of the 2017-2018 Best of SUNY Student Art Exhibition, which showcases work by student artists from across SUNY's 64 campuses. Keh, a Photography major who graduated in May, won for his piece, "Day Dreaming," which was on display at the State University Plaza in Albany through mid-December. Keh also received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Amber Pallas '18 was named a recipient of the Future Nurse Leader award in recognition of her excellence as a student by the American Nurses Association. Pallas, who graduated from MVCC's Nursing program this past May, is one of 29 nursing students statewide to be recognized for the award.

Cassandra Rogers '18 won the Dr. Jim Dyer Award for Academic Excellence. The award honors the liberal arts graduate with the highest GPA in the humanities.

Send us your news! MVCC wants to hear from you! Alumni may submit Class Notes for future issues to alumni@mvcc.edu with "Class Notes" in the subject line. Please include your name, graduation year, and your major, as well as some information about your accomplishments. Also remember to keep your contact information up-to-date so we can stay connected.

The MVCC Foundation inducted four new members to the MVCC Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Monday, Oct. 29, at the College's Utica Campus. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have embraced our community, modeled the way, inspired confidence, and encouraged excellence at MVCC. Selections are also chosen based on business or professional achievements or awards, leadership service to the local community, personal achievements, leadership support and involvement at MVCC, significant contributions to MVCC athletics, and any other appropriate qualifications.

THIS YEAR'S INDUCTEES ARE:



Arthur Friedberg

Professor Emeritus Arthur Friedberg served MVCC for 47 years, beginning in 1970 as an instructor in the Liberal Arts Department and later transferring to Department of Business. Over the next several years, he rose through the academic ranks, achieving

the title of Professor in 1985. Friedberg served the College in nearly every capacity, including both College initiatives and the MVCC Professional Association. He served on 71 different College committees, was a member of the MVCC Speakers Bureau, and served as an expert for local media, providing theoretical and economic background, comments, and views related to local, national, and international economic events. In 1985, he was instrumental in creating an internship option for business students, which has since expanded to include programs such as accounting, business administration, computer studies, and office technology. Friedberg was also known for his collegiality, helping to mentor new instructors. His perspective and commentary in academic discussions was always insightful, respectful, and highly sought-after. His hard work did not go unnoticed in the academic community: in 1995, he won the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and in 2015, he received the SUNY Chancellor's Award in Faculty Service.



Dr. Robert B. Jubenville

Dean and Professor Emeritus Dr. Robert B. Jubenville retired in 2011 as Dean of the Center of Health and Life Sciences. He began his 37-year career as a faculty member in the Life Sciences Department in 1974, working his way up to the rank of Professor, and serving as

Department Head from 1978 through 2011. Jubenville assumed additional responsibilities throughout the years as both the Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction and Acting Vice President of Instruction. He is still active in the MVCC community, teaching an online weather course and serving as the MVCC Senator for adjunct and part-time professionals. During his tenure at MVCC, he maintained affiliations that not only made him a better professor, but were of great benefit to the College, including the National Association of Biology Teachers, the Science Teachers Association of New York State, and the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society. He was also active within SUNY, serving as MVCC's representative for the Faculty Council of Community Colleges. He received several awards, including the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service in 1994, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service in 2007, and the National Council of Instructional Administrators National Award for Outstanding Instructional Service in 2008.



Bill Perrotti

Professor Emeritus Bill Perrotti was a member of the MVCC faculty for 41 years. He began his career in 1974 as the instructor and clinical coordinator of the Respiratory Therapy Technician Program and retired in 2015 as Professor of Life and Health Sciences and Director of the Human Non-Transplant

Anatomic Tissue Bank. One of Perrotti's most significant contributions to the College was his work to bring a body donor lab to MVCC — one of the very first at an eastern U.S. community college. He was active in the College Senate and the MVCC Professional Association, serving on a number of College-wide committees. His commitment to excellence earned him multiple awards, including the MVCC Excellence in Service Award in 1983, Central New York Labor Council Samuel Gompers Award in 2005, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service in 2005, SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006, and NYSUT Award for Outstanding Service to the Utica Region in 2009. He has been a member of the national professional organization Human Anatomy and Physiology Society (HAPS), serving as president for several years.



Norayne W. Rosero

Professor Emerita Norayne W. Rosero served as a member of the MVCC Mathematics faculty for 37 years. Throughout her career at MVCC, she has been a leader in the classroom and the College community as a teacher and a colleague. Among Rosero's most noteworthy accomplishments were those

in the area of assessment. She has been involved with assessment since the early 1990s, and in her typical fashion, she made assessment her own, ultimately becoming a legend in the field involving all divisions of the College. Rosero is an extraordinary teacher who encourages and inspires while instilling her classes with new teaching methods, and her students respond with superior performance. She made several contributions to the Mathematics Department and was personally involved in developing 13 different courses. She has served on more than 70 College committees and has worked tirelessly and successfully to convince College faculty that academic program review, accreditation review, and self-study are opportunities to improve. Her diligence led to several awards, including the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service in 2008, Educator of the Year from the Genesis Group in 2010, and SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Award in 2016.



MVCC NEWS AND EVENTS



SUNY CHANCELLOR JOHNSON VISITS MVCC AND THINCUBATOR

SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson visited the thINCubator and MVCC's Utica Campus on Tuesday, Aug. 7, to discuss the importance and value of entrepreneurship as MVCC President Randall J. VanWagoner signed the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge to increase MVCC's focus on entrepreneurship and its impact on the economic well-being of the community.

"Entrepreneurship is not for the faint of heart," said Johnson. "You have to be strong. You have to be resilient. You have to be all of the things that Mohawk Valley gives its graduates."

Since 2015, MVCC's thINCubator, which provides resources for startups and is the first co-working space in the Mohawk Valley, has worked with more than 150 different entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs through training and mentorships, has assisted in the creation or acceleration of 27 new businesses, and has hosted almost 100 events and

workshops. MVCC is the only community college with a New York State Regional Innovation Hotspot designation and is one of only two community colleges in the nation to have secured the federal Economic Development Administration's i6 grant, which allows thINCubator to provide funding for startups and connect them with the resources needed to succeed and create jobs.

The Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge is in response to the Obama Administration's Startup America call-to-action to stimulate economic growth state-by-state by encouraging entrepreneurs to start their own businesses. NACCE is a founding affiliate of the Startup America Partnership, an alliance of the country's most innovative entrepreneurs, corporations, universities, foundations, and other leaders.

Community college presidents who take the pledge commit to these five action steps:

- Develop transparency of community college and community assets
- Create internal and external teams dedicated to entrepreneurship
- Increase entrepreneurs' engagement in community colleges
- Engage in industry cluster development
- Create broad exposure to their college's commitment to entrepreneurship



"Through all these incredible efforts, MVCC and our many partners continue to foster a culture of entrepreneurship and creative collisions here in our area using the MVCC thINCubator as the hub for connecting entrepreneurs, colleges, students, and community organizations," VanWagoner said. "Today is not only about celebrating successes associated with launching more than one business every month for the past two years, but to affirm and amplify our commitment and enthusiasm to entrepreneurship right here in the Mohawk Valley."



KAHLER APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT OF LEARNING AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

This past July, Lewis Kahler, Ed.D., was appointed vice president for Learning and Academic Affairs, stepping into the shoes of Dr. Maryrose Eannace, who has retired after decades of serving students and faculty at MVCC.

In his new role, Kahler is responsible as a policy-level administrative officer for matters relating to instruction at the College. He also will serve as a key member of the President's staff and will recommend goals, policies, and strategies to ensure the optimum accomplishment of the College's comprehensive mission.

Kahler has been with MVCC since 2004 in a variety of capacities. He worked his way up the academic ranks from an adjunct instructor to instructor to assistant professor, and finally associate professor of humanities teaching writing, literature, and theater courses. In 2009, Kahler was appointed dean of the Center for Arts and Humanities and then became assistant vice president and dean of the School of

Business, Education, and Liberal Arts in 2016. In these administrative roles, he was responsible for setting the standard for intellectual engagement, academic integrity, and accomplishment by providing strategic vision for and operational leadership to his respective department. Additionally, his roles included providing strategic, innovative, and visionary leadership in support of the College's Strategic Plan, mission, vision, and values.

"In his new role, Kahler is responsible as a policy-level administrative officer for matters relating to instruction at the College. He also will serve as a key member of the President's staff."

Kahler earned a doctorate of education from Northeastern University in Boston with his dissertation "Exploring Meaning in Organizational Change: An Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis of the Effect of Change on Identity." He also holds a master's degree in English from SUNY Cortland and a bachelor's degree in English from Utica College. He also spent several years as an adjunct instructor at Utica College teaching English courses from 2001 to 2005.



EMERGENCY LOANS

The MVCC Foundation distributed more than two dozen emergency loans in 2018, enabling MVCC students to overcome financial barriers that threatened their ability to stay in school. The combined dollar amount of loans given out and paid back into the fund totals tens of thousands of dollars per year and aids students in surmounting barriers ranging from cost of textbooks and classroom materials to transportation, housing crises, and more.

For one student who contacted the Foundation in January 2018, financial pressure had forced a choice between feeding his family and pursuit of his educational dreams. “Currently I’ve been working full-time to support my family,” he told the Foundation. “As I’m sure you’re aware, that means paying all the bills and still somehow being able to put food on the table ... I need help, we need help. I’m trying to change our stars as a family.”

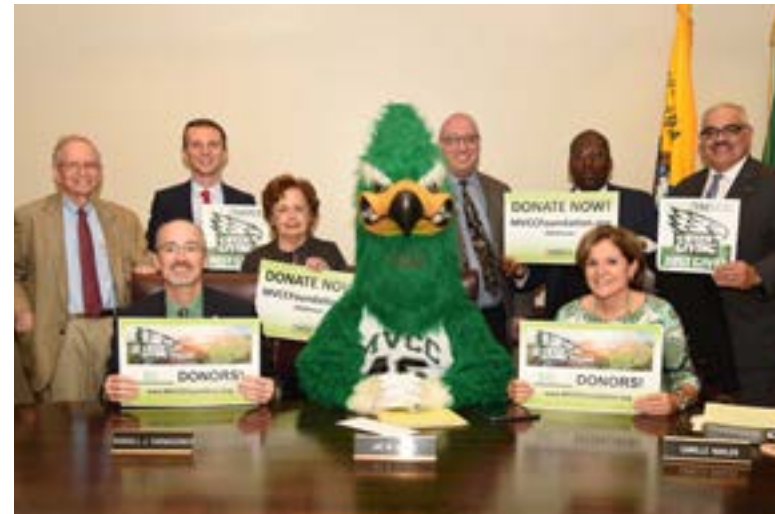
This student – a combat veteran – received a life-changing loan from the Foundation that covered his first month of expenses and enabled him to drop to

“Thank you. I’m so very much relieved now. Thank you so much...”

- Emergency Loan Recipient

part-time employment without endangering his family’s financial stability. The student later paid the loan back in full when his GI Bill funding was approved.

In the years since the Foundation launched the Emergency Relief Loan program, the Foundation has made nearly 500 emergency loans to help students continue pursuing higher education, loaning out well over \$400,000. The impact of the program has been tremendous, as participating students have proven their dedication to fulfilling their commitments. To date, 97 percent of these loans have been repaid in full.



GIVING WEEK

Through partnership with Alumnus Mike Briggs '63, the MVCC Foundation launched a “Week of Giving” initiative in October 2018, building on the success of the College’s first-ever “Day of Giving” piloted in 2017. The campaign – which ran for only 72 hours – kicked off at the Board of Trustees meeting on Oct. 15 and concluded on Oct.18. The event goal was to cultivate 200 donors though increased online engagement with College social media accounts and peer-to-peer advocacy and sharing.

The primary objective was to raise funds for the new outdoor athletic facilities, a project planned to expand MVCC’s services to the community through new soccer, lacrosse, track, baseball, tennis, and other athletic resources. The event was highly successful, with 215 donors contributing more than \$31,000 (106 percent of the original goal). Alumni of class years ranging from 1963 to 2020 participated, with the impact of each gift greatly increased through the incentive of a generous “challenge” match from Briggs. Briggs made a generous \$10,000 donation that matched approximately 100 donors’ gifts dollar-for-dollar.

MVCC athletic teams and coaches supported the event through involvement in a social media awareness campaign, and the College created promotional videos that received hundreds of views in the community. The promotional videos may be found on the Foundation website at mvccfoundation.org.

Events held during the Week of Giving included a Facebook Live media event with Associate Dean for Athletics, Physical Education & Recreation Gary Broadhurst, a student-focused social media sharing event, a Facebook Live rally at the soccer field, and more.

Donor breakdown (duplicative):

- 70% Faculty / Staff**
- 26% Alumni**
- 18% Students, Parents and Friends**





GOLF TOURNAMENT

The MVCC Foundation held its 32nd Annual MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament on June 18 at the Valley View Golf and Country Club in Utica. The event broke all previous records, raising just over \$25,000 in funds to benefit the Outdoor Athletics Campaign – an amount that a state capital fund is matching dollar-for-dollar to achieve a total of more than \$50,000.

In addition to 50/50 drawings, door prizes, team skins, and other contests, the top winners were:

Closest to the Pin: Frank Tofani

Longest Drive Contest:

Women MC Chruscicki
Men..... Bob Dustin

Team Award: Lowest Gross

1st place: Team Bob Calli: Bob Calli, Patrick Calli, Chris Salatino, Steve Conley

2nd place: Team MVCC Auxiliary Services Corp: AJ Stepanik, George Aylesworth, Kevin Siembab, Dan Cornmire

Team Award: Lowest Net

1st place: Team #1 Mike Briggs: Frank Tofani, Tony Tong, Dave Ionta, John Collins

2nd place: Team #2 Mike Briggs: Mike Briggs, Terry Coughlin, Jim Landers, Sam Sardina

Corporate Cup Winner:

Team #1 Mike Briggs: Frank Tofani, Tony Tong, Dave Ionta, John Collins

EMERITUS BRUNCH

MVCC retirees and emeriti had the opportunity to reconnect with longtime friends and colleagues at a brunch hosted by the MVCC Foundation in October. Attendees learned about the College's new initiatives and program advancements, as well as how to remain engaged with the College through involvement in the Week of Giving and other efforts.

TED MOORE 5K RUN AND WALK

The MVCC Foundation hosted the 21st annual Ted Moore 5K Run and Walk on May 5, attracting nearly 200 participants ranging in age from 8 to 80 years old. Participants hailed from more than 30 towns, villages, and cities in and outside of Oneida County.

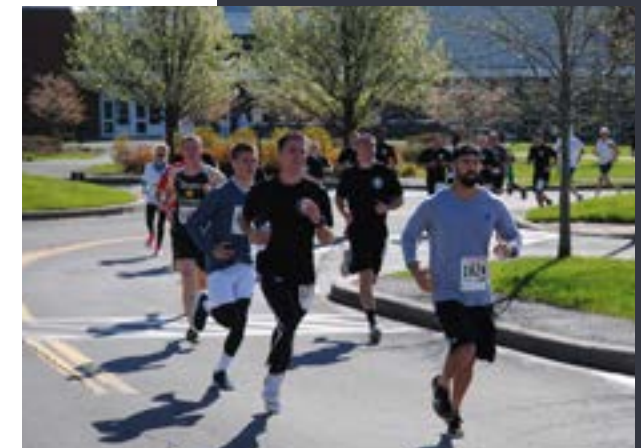
Top winners were:

Top Overall Male: William Callahan, 41, Whitesboro, N.Y., Time: 18:05, Pace: 5:50

Top Overall Female: Rochelle Ferro, 30, Utica, N.Y., Time: 21:43, Pace: 7:00

The event raised over \$6,000 toward the Ted Moore Scholarship at MVCC, ultimately providing tuition support for more than a dozen students at MVCC.

Sponsors included the Oneida County Stop DWI program and the Sheriff's Office, Sodexo, A&P Master Images, PJ Green, the MVCC Professional Association, the Association of Mohawk Valley Administrators, KISS-FM, WKTV News Channel 2, the MVCC Alumni Association, and more.



MVCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Oneida County Appointment, 2012

Anthony J. Colón, Vice Chair
Oneida County Appointment, 2008

William S. Calli, Jr.
Oneida County Appointment, 2003

David Mathis
Oneida County Appointment, 1977

Elaine M. Falvo
Governor Appointment, 1988

John B. Stetson
Governor Appointment, 1997

Frank Dubeck, Jr.
Governor Appointment, 2016

Kupr Kuprian
Student Trustee

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Appointee

Jean Leandre

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Tom Squires, Vice President for Administrative Services
Kupr Kuprian, Student Trustee

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Early Education

ABOUT THE MVCC FOUNDATION

MVCC Foundation, Inc. is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit corporation that relies on the generosity of its alumni and donors to provide support and opportunities to the College and its students. Funds are directed toward four major initiatives: Creating Student Opportunity, Breaking Barriers, Revitalizing Our Economy, and Educational Excellence. Every dollar raised can make a difference, and there are many ways you can give and have a positive impact on our students and community.

Online: MVCCFoundation.org

By Mail: Checks can be made payable to MVCC Foundation, Inc. and mailed to the attention of the Foundation at:

1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY 13501

By Phone: 315-792-5555 (Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m – 4:30 p.m.)

By Text Message: NEW in 2019, the MVCC Foundation will have the ability to communicate with alumni and donors via text message. Please contact our office to update your mobile phone number.

Establish a Named Scholarship

With a minimum contribution of \$10,000, an annual scholarship may be established. Pledge commitments can be paid over time.

Underwrite an Annual Event

Whether it's the Ted Moore Run and Walk, our annual scholarship dinner, or the MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament, there are a number of opportunities to highlight your business or organization and support MVCC in creative ways.

Make a Contribution to Honor a Loved One

Celebrate a special occasion or remember a loved one by honoring them with a gift to the MVCC Foundation.

Consider Gift Planning

Please remember MVCC in your estate plan or by making a gift that makes payments back to you before benefitting MVCC. For additional information, contact Vice President Frank DuRoss at 315-792-5526 or fduross@mvcc.edu.

Gifts In-Kind

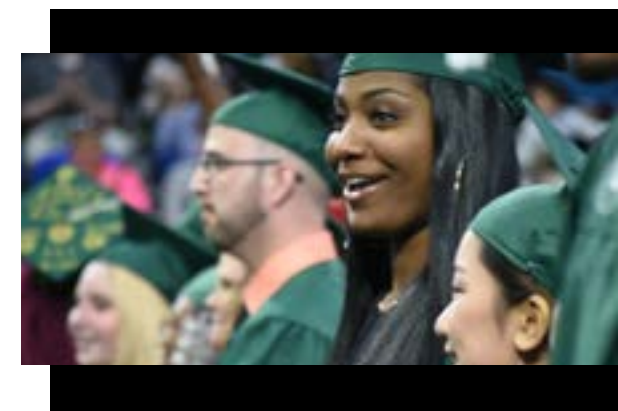
Gifts in-kind are a form of giving in which, instead of giving money to buy goods and services, those products or services are themselves given. In the past, MVCC has received gifts in-kind that include airplanes, office furnishings, and equipment.

Matching Gifts

You may be able to double or even triple the impact of your gift if your or your spouse's employer participates in a Corporate

Matching Gifts program. Simply speak with your human resources or personnel office about obtaining a gift match form and include the completed form with your contribution.

Don't forget to follow MVCC on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn for the latest College news and alumni information!





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