



Moraine Valley Matters

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

December 2020 - Published by the Moraine Valley Community College Foundation



2020 - A tough year to be a college student- You can help!

This year was a hard one for everyone including Moraine Valley Community College students. Our students were faced with job loss, illness, caring for sick loved ones, teaching their children or siblings to adapt to online learning while they also made that transition. For many, figuring out how to pay for college seemed impossible on top of everything else. The Moraine Valley Foundation saw an

increase in the number of students they helped during the pandemic so far. They purchased laptops for students who didn't have the right equipment to learn remotely and provided [emergency textbook funds](#) to those who couldn't afford to pay for books, and [even helped](#) with utility bills, transportation, child care and food for many students in crisis.

The number of students needing help continues to rise so we are reaching out to our alumni and friends to support our students in need and crisis. [Your donation can help](#) to keep a student in school at a time when it seems to them that everything is against them. Please consider paying it forward to help a student who struggles to build a better life through education. Let's end 2020 on a positive note by giving hope to a student in need.



Alumni Spotlight: Nursing alumna got a strong foundation at Moraine Valley

"I graduated from high school on a Friday and started in Moraine Valley's Phlebotomy Program the following Monday," Laurie Keating said. She had to support herself, and she needed a good job with insurance. "I knew phlebotomy would provide that, so that's how I started my health care career." She always wanted to become a nurse, so a few years later, she returned to Moraine Valley to earn her associate degree in nursing.

Keating said she was well-prepared to start her career after completing the college's Nursing Program. "It's really challenging, so when you graduate with your associate degree, you are ready for anything. I appreciate everything I learned at Moraine Valley and can't say enough about the program and what it did for me as a nurse." [READ MORE.](#)



Moraine Valley educator named 2021 Master Educator

Dr. Amani Wazwaz, Moraine Valley Community College professor of [communications/literature](#) and coordinator of speech and foreign languages, was named the college's 2021 Master Educator.

Since 2005, Wazwaz has taught communication classes at Moraine Valley. Her passion in the classroom has led her to discover new ways to get students actively engaged in hands-on learning. Because of that approach, she aided in the college grant-supported project Mosaics: Muslim Voices in America. She helped devise several artistic ideas to engage students and employees with understanding Muslim culture, especially through her House of Wisdom concept, which she also integrated in her course curriculum.

[READ MORE.](#)



Bressanelli awarded Moraine Valley Speech Team alumni award

The Moraine Valley Speech Team announced the winner of the Moraine Valley Outstanding Alumni Award for 2020-2021. The award went to Kelly Bressanelli. Kelly was on the Moraine Valley [Speech team](#) from 2012 to 2014. In 2014, Kelly led her team to a bronze medal at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament.

Kelly received a scholarship to compete for the North Central College Speech Team after leaving Moraine Valley. Although no longer at the college, she frequently volunteers to coach and judge for the [Moraine Valley Speech Team](#). She has an unwavering spirit and gives back to the college community in so many ways.



Moraine Valley alumnus qualifies for national Microsoft Office competition

Moraine Valley Community College alumnus Mike La Mantia, of Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood, was one of the top scorers in Illinois for the Microsoft Office Specialist Excel certification exam, qualifying him for the Microsoft Office Specialist U.S. National Championship in June 2021.

La Mantia took a Microsoft Excel class in fall 2019 with Carol Boyle, Moraine Valley professor of [Office Technology](#) and certification testing coordinator. When he sat for the certification exam, a requirement for the class, he performed advanced Excel tasks. Top exam scorers in each state are invited to the national tournament, which was canceled in June due to the pandemic but rescheduled for June 2021. La Mantia earned a near-perfect score. He transferred to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he is studying finance and agribusiness. [READ MORE.](#)



2021 Alumni Hall of Fame canceled due to pandemic

The Moraine Valley Community College Foundation typically names four former students and graduates as Hall of Fame

inductees each year and holds an induction ceremony in February. This year due to the restrictions of the pandemic for large group gatherings the 2021 Alumni Hall of Fame has been canceled. Those alumni who have been nominated will be held for nomination for the 2022 Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame.

The Foundation will continue to accept nominations for the 2022 Hall of Fame induction until Sept. 30, 2021. Graduates and students who have completed at least 30 credits at the college and have not been a Moraine Valley student for 10 or more years are eligible for nomination. If you would like to be considered for the award, you must have someone nominate you by [completing the form](#) or if you know someone you feel is deserving of this honor please complete the nomination form. All nominees are reviewed by a committee made up of Moraine Valley faculty, staff and previous Hall of Fame inductees. [READ MORE.](#)



Read the Moraine Valley student newspaper - The Glacier

If you would like to see what college life is like today at Moraine Valley, check out [The Glacier](#), the college's student newspaper that is now available online. The publication includes articles written by student volunteers and Journalism students.



Alumni can access Moraine Valley Library podcasts

The Moraine Valley Library is a wonderful resource for the college and community, including locally created, informative podcasts produced by faculty, staff, students, alumni and guests.

The library has many podcosts along with new ones created regularly. If you missed one of our amazing public events from the fall semester or previous semesters, you can listen to the discussions on your favorite podcast app or watch videos online. You can subscribe to the podcasts and productions on:

- [iTunes](#)
- [Spotify](#)
- [Google Play](#)
- [Stitcher](#)
- Or [listen directly on the Library's Website](#)
- You can also watch our events on the [Library's YouTube channel](#) (subscribe for updates).

Thanks to all of our faculty who have given of their time and expertise to be part of our public events.



Thank you to the 2020 Moraine Valley Foundation Sponsors

The Moraine Valley Foundation would like to thank our 2020 sponsors who supported all of our events this year. None of the good work we do would be possible without our sponsors' generous backing that promotes higher learning, employment, education and productivity in the community. Please thank these area businesses for supporting our students.

The Foundation is glad to provide information to you, your business or organization on [becoming a sponsor](#). Contact [Lisa Rispoli](#) for details.

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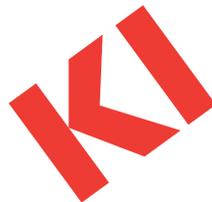
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