



Moraine Valley Matters

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

Moraine Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter - February/March 2025

Moraine Valley names 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame

Inducts distinguished alumni into Alumni Hall of Fame

The Moraine Valley Foundation celebrated its Alumni Hall of Fame's 10th anniversary at the annual induction ceremony held at the college's Palos Hills location on March 4.



The Hall of Fame Class of 2025 included four inductees: Dr. Jermaine Ford, Dr. April Gallik, Michael Ross Schofield Jr. and Naheda Zayyad-Hussien. In addition, over 20 individuals who won the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award prior to the creation of the Hall of Fame were officially inducted at the ceremony.

"Each year, we honor successful alumni as new inductees into our Alumni Hall of Fame. This year, we inducted four new members who have contributed to their professions and communities," said Patti Mehallick, director of Alumni and Annual Programs for the Foundation. "We also had the privilege of inducting alumni who were named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year before the Hall of Fame was created in honor of our Hall of Fame's 10-year anniversary."

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Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame Distinguished Alumni inductees: (seated left to right): Raymond Jachim '72; Michael and Mikayla Craig, family of inductee William Craig '81; Stacy Sheerin '92,'93; Susan Langwell '99; Francine Frisby '99; (standing left to right): Dr. Pamela J. Haney, president of Moraine Valley Community College; Beth McElroy Kirkwood, chair of the Board of Trustees; Patricia Joan Murphy, vice chair of the Board of Trustees; Eric Spruth '87; Larry Watson '02; Steve Good '96; Robert Buhs '84; Dennis Shannon '77; Patrick O'Connor '76, '77, '85; Tracy M. Sullivan, trustee on the Board of Trustees; Maria DeCaprio-Sunta '81 and Helen Lobas, president of the Foundation Board of Directors.

Gateways Gala on April 11 will support health sciences programs and students



NBC 5's Michele Releford to emcee Gala

The Moraine Valley Foundation will hold its annual Gateways Gala on Friday, April 11, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the college's main campus in Palos Hills. The theme for this year's fundraising event is Strengthening Health Education.

The Foundation hopes to raise \$100,000 to support Moraine Valley's Health Sciences programs by funding scholarships and purchasing necessary supplies for students in the programs to successfully complete their education in an in-demand field.

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Special Gala pricing for Moraine Valley alumni

Celebrate Moraine Valley's Health Science programs with exclusive \$99 alumni pricing for the Gateways Gala! This special evening brings together alumni, students and faculty to honor the health care community. Enjoy a gourmet dinner and dessert prepared by Moraine Valley culinary students, along with live music, dancing, an open bar and exciting auctions. Proceeds support scholarships, supplies and programs that make health care education more accessible. This year's gala also celebrates the expansion of the health care educational opportunities at the Southwest Education Center in Tinley Park, helping to train the next generation of health care professionals.

Can't attend? You can still support the event!

Enter the raffle for a chance to win fantastic prizes—no need to be present to win!

- \$1,500 Southwest Airlines gift card
- Four Chicago Cubs tickets
- R. Whittingham and Sons deluxe grill package plus four bottles wine
- Assorted coffees and teas basket
- Custom Moraine Valley Bookstore gift basket

[Buy Tickets](#)



Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Erika C. Burt

Student worker experience leads to a career in higher education

After a challenging start as a freshman at Northern Illinois University, [Dr. Erika Burt](#) thought she'd take a few classes at Moraine Valley to improve her grade point average. Her plan was to enroll at Moraine Valley for one semester. However, she enjoyed her experience so

much she decided to complete the college's two-year program. While attending, Burt held numerous positions as a student worker, including in the Library, gym and at the McDonald's that was formerly located on campus.

"One of my most meaningful student worker experiences was in the Registration Office where I learned about admission, registration, records processes and grade reports," Burt said. "The person who led the department was knowledgeable, flexible and confident. Her leadership and efficiency in that office piqued my interest in higher education careers."

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Business leaders mentor students at networking dinner

Moraine Valley's business faculty and the student club, NextGeneration Business Leaders, sponsored a networking dinner pairing business students with business leaders to share their professional experiences. On Thursday, March 27, in Building M,

on the college's Palos Hills campus, 21 business representatives from all areas of business attended the event which hosted more than 50 of Moraine Valley's top business students.

Business representatives from banking, health care, retail, non-profit, legal and corporate organizations were represented. Companies such as Amazon, Mack Trucks, McDonald's and Crestline Hotels were among those attending. Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame inductees Debra Baker, Jim Craver, Dennis Shannon and Marjorie Owens-Klotz were among those mentoring students.

The event began with a welcome from Joe Flynn, department chair of business, and student business club president, Danielle Stoval. Students and mentors divided into groups to meet with mentors, rotating every 10 minutes. Dinner was provided by students in the Culinary Arts Management and Baking and Pastry programs, which are part of the college's Business Department. Following dinner, the rotations continued to allow ample time for students and mentors to connect.

If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor for future networking events, please click this link below.

[BECOME A BUSINESS VOLUNTEER](#)

Did you take theater classes at Moraine Valley during the years 1970 to 2002?

A Theater Program reunion is being planned for students who took Moraine Valley theater classes or performed in any college theater production from 1970 to 2002. The reunion will be held in June 2025. Those interested in more information should contact Joyce Porter at joyceporter2001@yahoo.com or visit the [Moraine Valley Theater FaceBook page](#).

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Read the Moraine Valley student newspaper

To catch up on the latest news and events for our current Moraine Valley students, be sure to read the Glacier. This is the student publication that recently won several national awards for being an outstanding student publication.

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REMEMBER WHEN? This photo is of Moraine Valley distinguished alumni inductees in 1999, Francine Frisby and Susan Langwell (center). Both graduated in 1995 and were co-directors of the Christian Kids Corner Preschool when they were awarded this honor. Frisby and Langwell are shown in the photo above as inductees into the Alumni Hall of Fame in March 2025.



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