



Moraine Valley Matters

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

Moraine Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter - March 2023



The 2023 inductees to the Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame (Left to Right above) Tom O'Malley, Jim Craver, Dr. Walter Fronczek and Marjorie Owens-Klotz.

Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame names 2023 inductees

The Moraine Valley Foundation announced the 2023 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees on March 7. They are Jim Craver, '96; Dr. Walter Fronczek, '82; Tom O'Malley, '87; and Marjorie Owens-Klotz, '83.

The 2023 Distinguished Alumnus Award winner was Jim Craver, who graduated from Moraine Valley with an associate degree in restaurant/hotel management. He is the general manager of Homewood Suites by Hilton Chicago – Downtown, which does approximately \$15 million in annual revenue and is one of the top three revenue generators of the 500 Homewood Suites within the Hilton brand.

Over his successful 20-year career in the hospitality industry, Craver has worked in numerous hotels and has earned several industry awards, including Promus Hotel's President's Award, White Lodging Services' Excalibur Award and Crestline Hotel's Crestline Cup.

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Foundation's Gateways Gala set for April 28

The Moraine Valley Foundation will hold its annual fundraising gala on Friday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m., on Moraine Valley's campus in Palos Hills. This year, the Foundation unveiled a new name for the event, Gateways Gala, to reflect how the college is a gateway to anyone seeking a successful future through higher education.

The event will honor the legacy of Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins, president of Moraine Valley Community College, who is retiring on June 30 after 35 years, by raising funds for a new scholarship in her name. The scholarship will be awarded to students who are nearing the end of their degree or certificate program, but are facing challenges that may make it difficult for them to finish.

Event information and options to purchase tickets for the gala, raffle tickets or to make a donation are available on the [Gala website](#).



Warriors at Amazon donate scholarship funds to Moraine Valley veteran students

The Warriors at Amazon affinity group donated \$1,000 to the Moraine Valley Community College Foundation to start a new scholarship for veterans at

the college that can be used to cover educational expenses.

Members of the Warriors at Amazon group presented a check to Moraine Valley's president, Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins, at an event held on Feb. 14 in the college's Veterans Resource Center. The two co-presidents of the affinity group, Suha Abunijmeh, inventory control and quality assurance operations manager, and Peter Holland, senior operations manager, attended the event along with several Amazon employees and members of the group.

In the photo above, representatives from the Warriors at Amazon affinity group (from left) Rick Sanchez; Nelly Hellens, human resources partner and Warriors at Amazon secretary; Abunijmeh and Holland present a \$1,000 donation to Jenkins (second from right) to establish a new scholarship for veterans.

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Help us win up to
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Help the Foundation win up to \$15,000

We need your help to earn a donation of up to \$15,000 to the Moraine Valley Community College Foundation. Old National Bank is launching their Choose Your Charity! Everyone is invited to vote for

us once a day, every day, until March 31-by visiting the [Choose Your Charity](http://ChooseYourCharity.com) website. The nonprofits with the most votes from Old National's Illinois, Iowa, Northwest Indiana and select Southeast Wisconsin communities will each get \$5,000 and the non-profit with the overall most votes will get an additional \$10,000. These funds could really make a difference for our local community. Please take a few minutes out of your day to vote for the Moraine Valley Community College Foundation at oldnational.com/cyc.

[VOTE HERE](#)



Alumni Spotlight: Hussein Mohd - engineering student lands dream job

Thanks to a strong foundation laid at Moraine Valley, Hussein Mohd completed his associate degree, successfully transferred to the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) and realized his dream of becoming a civil engineer.

Mohd, of Tinley Park, works as a structural civil engineer for the international firm Ardmore Roderick and has been assigned the lead for Chicago's Jackson Park Mobility Improvement Project, the future site of the Barack Obama Presidential Center.

Crediting Moraine Valley for providing the necessary tools, Hussein set out to accomplish his first goal: overcome the language barrier. When his family moved from Jordan to the United States seven years ago, he did not speak English. He enrolled in the Intensive English Language courses where he learned to speak, read and write the language. From there he was able to start the required math and science courses.

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Win tickets to see a performance at the FPAC

Enter here to win two tickets to one of [this season's performances](#) at the Moraine Valley Fine and Performing Arts Center. A lucky winner is selected from entries received by April 15.



Congratulations to **Donna Brunnel**, the winner of the February Alumni Newsletter drawing. Donna will receive two tickets to a performance at the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Enter below to have a chance in the March drawing to win FPAC tickets. Winners will be notified by email.

[ENTER HERE](#)



Foundation Scholarship application deadline is March 31

The Moraine Valley Community College Foundation [scholarship application](#) is available online. Current and potential Moraine Valley students can apply for approximately 350 scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 to be used during the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters. The deadline to apply is March 31.

"Many of our students face financial struggles as they pursue their dream of getting a college education," said Patti Mehallick, director of the Alumni and Annual Programs. "Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to help students by offering many different scholarships. Without this financial assistance, some students would have to put off their education. I am pleased we have so many generous donors to offer our students much-needed help."

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Men's and Women's Cyclone basketball seasons end well

Big accomplishments for men's team by season's end

With a championship, solid overall record and several honors, the Moraine Valley Community College men's basketball team had plenty to brag about as they closed out their season.

For the second time in four years, the team won an Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference Championship thanks to a 13-1 record and a dominating final game against Prairie State College, which was battling with them for the top spot (and was the only Skyway team the Cyclones lost to). Moraine Valley topped the conference by two games.

[READ MORE ABOUT MEN'S BASKETBALL](#)

A season of learning and growth for women's team

Plenty of lessons were learned, and several athletes earned honors at the end of the Moraine Valley Community College women's basketball season.

This team of nine was comprised of hard-working players who gave everything they had. However, they weren't able to maximize their talent. "We were better than our record. We were better than a .500 team. We just didn't achieve as much as we should have, which includes players and coaches," said Head Coach Delwyn Jones, who finished his 23rd year leading the program.

[READ MORE ABOUT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL](#)

Take Back the Night rally and walk held on Moraine Valley campus April 5

Moraine Valley Community College is hosting a Take Back the Night Rally and Walk on Wednesday, April 5, 6 to 7 p.m., in Building M and the outdoor Gateway on campus, 9000 W. College Parkway, Palos Hills. This event is free and open to the public.

Take Back the Night is the oldest worldwide movement to stand against sexual violence. Various groups hold events in April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and/or March, which is Women's History Month. The college is recognizing both of these months by holding this event in early April.

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For current Moraine Valley news and information on events, read the student publication, [The Glacier](#).



Remember When - The college held annual career fairs on campus for students looking for full- and part-time jobs. This Career Fair was held in 1970. Today the college [Job Resource Center](#) assists students and community members in finding employment while attending college and after completion of their studies.



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