



Moraine Valley Matters

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

Moraine Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter - May 2024



Foundation Gateways Gala celebrates the arts!

The Foundation celebrated the [Fine and Performing Arts Center](#) at the Gateways Gala event held on Thursday, April 18, on the Moraine Valley campus in Palos Hills. It was an evening to remember, filled with art, culture and giving back. The Foundation would like to thank our donors for their generous support. Whether someone attended, sponsored the event, purchased raffle tickets or donated to support the arts, every contribution made a difference toward our goal of spreading the joy of the arts throughout our community.

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Below photos, top row, left to right: Guests enjoy dabbling in art. Bruce Nawara bids on an auction item. Foundation Executive Director, Kristy McGreal and husband, Chef Mike McGreal, pose by one of two ice sculptures Chef McGreal created for the Gala.

Photos bottom row, left to right: Chef Jeanne Kraus shows the delicious dessert she and culinary students prepared for the Gala. Excitement rises during the live auction. Paddle drop prize winners, Alexander Papadakis and Hannah Cummins, are thrilled with their prize, a private tour for 20 to KOVAL distillery in Chicago.





Annual Foundation Golf Outing at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club

[Registration](#) is now open for the Moraine Valley Foundation's 43rd annual Golf Outing at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, Sept. 18. The event is sponsored by Live Right Senior Care. Multiple [sponsorship opportunities](#) are available.

Join us for a day of 18 holes of golf, course games and networking. All proceeds from the Golf Outing fund scholarships for our un-fore-gettable Moraine Valley students.

MORE INFORMATION



Dr. Pamela J. Haney leads first commencement as new president

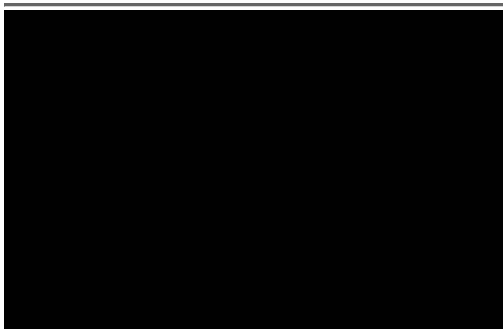
Dr. Pamela J. Haney personally congratulated more than 600 of the college's 2024 graduates as they received their degrees and certificates at her first commencement as Moraine Valley's president. Two commencement ceremonies were held on Friday, May 17, on the college campus in Palos Hills.

Students received Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Arts, Associate in Engineering Science, Associate in Fine Arts, Associate in General Studies and Associate in Science degrees and occupational career certificates.

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Student speakers included Monet Sanders at the 11 a.m. program and Saniah Johnson at the 3 p.m. program. Professor the Year, Joe Flynn, was the faculty speaker. Members of the college's Board of Trustees and Executive Leadership Team were on hand to congratulate graduates. Hall of Fame Alumni inductees, Elaine Echols '83 and Jason Knade '24, presented graduates with an official Moraine Valley Alumni pin as they exited the stage.

In the photos below: (left to right) Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame inductees Jason Knade and Elaine Echols give an alumni lapel pin to every graduate. A group of students proudly show their diplomas. A family celebrates its graduate.



Moraine Valley hosts STEM Expo for middle school students

Moraine Valley Community College hosted its annual STEM Expo on Friday, April 26, for 750 seventh-grade students from several middle schools in its district. The morning-long

event was held on the college's campus in Palos Hills.

The STEM Expo allowed students to participate in a variety of fun and informative STEM activities, led by Moraine Valley faculty and staff members and Moraine Valley students. In addition, some sessions were led by guest presenters from Argonne National Laboratory, Museum of Science and Industry, Orland Park Public Library and local high schools.

A highlight of the event was the Exploration Zone, where attendees participated in various STEM-related games and experiments and watched exciting demonstrations.

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Scholarship application deadline extended to May 31

The Moraine Valley Foundation scholarship deadline is extended to Friday, May 31. Current and potential Moraine Valley students can apply for more than 300 scholarships to be used during the fall 2024 and spring 2025 semesters. Students apply for a

scholarship using an [online application](#).

"Many students struggle to pay for college tuition, so we encourage anyone who plans to attend Moraine Valley in the upcoming academic year to apply for a scholarship through our Foundation," said Kristy McGreal, executive director of the Moraine Valley Foundation. "Thanks to our generous donors, we have hundreds of scholarships available. The application process is easy and we can't wait to help deserving students."

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Volunteers needed to review scholarship applications

The Moraine Valley Foundation is seeking volunteers to help review and score applications submitted by students seeking a scholarship for the fall 2024/spring 2025 academic year. The review period will be in early to mid-June.

Volunteers are emailed a link to access applications assigned to them for review and given two weeks to complete them. Typically, reviews take three to five minutes each to conduct. Applications consist of 20 general questions and a 500-word essay. Reviewers score applications in two ways: quality of the essay and how well a student demonstrates their need or desire for an award.

If a volunteer cannot complete their assignments, there are back-up reviewers to assist. College faculty and staff, alumni, civic group leaders and members of the community make up this large group of dedicated volunteers who assure the most deserving students receive awards. The Moraine Valley Foundation awards scholarships to more than 350 students each year.

If you are interested in volunteering, [contact Patti Mehallick](#) at (708) 974-5551.

Shakespeare Garden brick sale price ends June 30

Now is the time to purchase a personalized, engraved brick in the college's beautiful Shakespeare Garden during the annual graduation sale when brick prices are cut by \$50. The Shakespeare Garden is located in the center of the campus east of the Gateway, and features many of the plants and flora featured in William Shakespeare's plays. The bricks are engraved with messages, greetings, quotes and memorials.



Bricks typically sell for a \$150 donation. However, to honor the Moraine Valley Class of 2024, bricks will be sold now through June 30, 2024, at the reduced donation price of \$100. Your message must meet certain criteria. Each brick has room for three lines, each with 14 spaces, and will be installed later this summer.

If you have any questions, please contact the Foundation office at foundation@morainevalley.edu or call (708) 974-5551.

[BUY A BRICK](#)



Moraine Valley hosts Tech Skills competition

More than 45 high school students competed at Moraine Valley Community College's annual Tech Skills Competition last month.

After competing in a virtual qualifier, district students visited campus and competed in the in-person challenge on electronics, information technology and cybersecurity, office skills and applications, and Photoshop. They encountered hands-on (such as soldering and configuration) and online testing before Moraine Valley faculty graded them and gave the top three awards to schools in each category.

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Academic Theater presents: King Lear on Gateway stage

"Once upon a time, there was a King, who asked his three daughters which of them loved him the most." This fairy tale beginning devolves into one of the greatest tragedies ever written as King Lear loses his family and friends, with only his faithful Fool by his side.

"King Lear" will be the 20th anniversary performance of the college's "Shakespeare Under the Stars." Traditionally, as part of the college's educational theater program, a Shakespeare play is performed outdoors by students, faculty and community actors. The show is performed at the Gateway in the center of the campus next to the college's beautiful Shakespeare Garden.



This year's show is directed by Moraine Valley professor Dr. Craig Rosen. Performances will be July 18 to 20, at 7 p.m., and July 21, at 5:30 p.m. The show is free and open to the public. Bring blankets and chairs for seating.

[GET TICKETS](#)



ALUMNI News

Congratulations to **Dr. Vincent Alexander Davis**, MV '03, upon receiving a Ph.D. in communications from Regent University. Davis works as a full-time faculty member at Saint Xavier University and is an adjunct professor at Moraine Valley.

Genevieve Gonnigan MV '17, was recently promoted to vice president of Human Resources, People and Culture at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.

If you are a former Moraine Valley student who would like to share a recent accomplishment, please email Moraine Valley Matters at alumni@morainevalley.edu and we will try to publish it in a future edition of Moraine Valley Matters.

MORaine VALUES

GREAT EMPLOYEES



“ I enjoy Moraine Valley’s diverse population of students and staff. It broadens your world view and builds a greater appreciation for different people and cultures. ”

*Donald Allen, program assistant
in the Student Success Center*

If YOU value:

- Fulfilling work helping students pursue their dreams
- Diverse, welcoming work environment
- Excellent benefits and pension (*for full-time and many part-time positions*)
- *Outstanding professional development opportunities*
- Exceptional workspaces on a beautiful campus

CHOOSE a career at Moraine Valley Community College! Search for jobs at <https://jobs.morainevalley.edu>.

For more information, contact Human Resources at (708) 974-5704 or hr@morainevalley.edu.



In the Glacier: Food Pantry expands

By Jermaine Logan, Staff Writer and Photographer

Did you know that next semester, there will be significant expansions to our food pantry right here in Moraine? Our food pantry serves as a vital resource for all students, ensuring that nobody on campus has to worry about going hungry. Whether you're facing temporary financial difficulties or simply need a quick snack between classes, the pantry is here to support you. It can be found upstairs of the S building in the Counseling and Career Development Center.

[READ MORE IN THE GLACIER](#)



REMEMBER WHEN? A Moraine Valley summer session class moved to the outdoors in this 1977 photo taken on campus grounds. Early summer classes are currently in session and students [may register](#) for later summer sessions and the fall semester now.



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