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Midnight Oil

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MFC Instructor Tapes Course Introduction

Roy Pipitone (MFC 330—Entrepreneurship and the Small Business), is the latest Millard Fillmore College instructor to create a video introduction to his course.

A video introduction allows students to see their instructor, which aids in

the creation of an online community. Also, by viewing a video, students know, before the course begins, what the expected workload and outcomes are for each course.

Pipitone's colleagues, Margie Hewlett (MFC 118), Jim Gerland (MFC

215), Marc Adler (MFC 274), and Olga Possé (MFC 332) have also created video introductions to their courses.

To see Pipitone's course introduction video, look under the "Faculty and Staff Listings" on the MFC website.

Lifelong Learning Finishes...And Begins Anew!

The Millard Fillmore College Lifelong Learning program concludes this fall with a lecture by James McGrath, a Civil War historian, entitled "Lincoln's "Camp David": Abraham Lincoln and the Soldier's Home." McGrath's lecture will take place at the Buffalo Irish Center on Monday, October 17 at 7 p.m. This lecture is free and open to the public.

The idea of the Lifelong Learning program is to bring scholars and teachers together with people ages 60 and above who are interested in college-level learning. The program began last summer on South Campus. Now, under the leadership of Patricia Dowling, from the Erie County Department of Senior Services, the program consists of short courses delivered at area senior centers.

Paul Reitan, professor emeritus from UB's Department of Geology, is teaching the first course of the Erie County Lifelong Learning Program. His class is entitled "The Science of Sustainability: Threats to the Future and Where Solutions May be Found." Prof. Reitan's course is being held at the Tonawanda Senior Center and runs on Wednesdays in September and October.



Larry R. Gingrich,
Associate Dean

THOUGHTS...

*"The University of
Buffalo exists for
service."*

*UB Bulletin,
noting the beginning
of "The Evening
Session," the
forerunner of MFC
July, 1923*

Larry's Column

Welcome back, MFC students and faculty! Fall is a season of colorful change, and we have some changes for you.

First, in conjunction with Gatlin Education, we are introducing an amazing group of non-credit online certificate programs. These pro-

grams are popular, particularly with non-traditional students, because they are topical and fit so well into work schedules.

In addition, this fall marks the reintroduction of aviation training to UB. Believe it or not, Millard Fillmore

College instructors have been teaching area students about piloting airplanes since the 1920s. This semester, Gary Stephens is teaching MFC 130—Aviation Ground School for Private Pilots.

Again, welcome back one and all.

MFC links with Gatlin Education

Effective Fall 2005, Millard Fillmore College has partnered with Gatlin Education to offer non-credit online certificate programs. Areas of study are Healthcare; Busi-

ness; Construction; Internet, Design, and Technical Programs; Networking and CompTIA™ Certification programs; Microsoft Certification Training Programs; and Video

Game Design and Development Programs.

Call the MFC office or log on to our website to find out more about these exciting new certificate programs.

Did You Know...?

...that the birthday celebration for [Millard Fillmore](#), held yearly on January 7 in Forest Lawn Cemetery, is free and open to the public. Contact the MFC office for time and directions to Fillmore's gravesite...

...that both the seated and online sections of MFC 303—Data Communications/Networking this fall will be taught by new instructor [Tom Strade](#). He also works at Immersive, Inc. Welcome, Tom!...

...that MFC passes along condolences to [Carmen Coleman](#), our longtime secretary, whose husband, Bruce, passed away in September. A montage of Bruce's life can be seen at: www.mem.com/display/biography.asp?ID=986285.

A Conversation with Marge Hewlett

MARGE HEWLETT is the instructor for one of Millard Fillmore College's most popular courses, MFC 118 — Microcomputer Applications I. She is also the Corporate Programs Administrator at UB's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS).

What do you do at SEAS? I direct EngiNet™, the graduate engineering distance learning program. This program provides videotaped SEAS lectures, either through streaming video or CD, to graduate students all over the world.

What do you enjoy most about teaching at Millard Fillmore College? It gives me a great deal of satisfaction to know that my teaching relates so closely with my job responsibilities at UB. That is, teaching MFC students online allows them to earn credits toward graduation from home or elsewhere, in the fall, spring or summer, just as the program I run for SEAS serves graduate engineering students.

Why do you think you are so popular with the MFC students? If, indeed, there is any popularity, I believe it is my course and how I present it. My perspective is that the expertise needed in the applications covered by this

course is best achieved by "doing," not just theory. Therefore, the bulk of what my course requires is hands-on exercises. These exercises, which are numerous but compelling, give the students a great sense of achievement when executed properly. Also, I try to always keep the perspective that if I were on the asking end, I would want an attentive response to my individual need, ASAP.

You've taught at MFC for several years. How have the students changed during this time? When I started teaching MFC 118 in 1995, this introductory level course for computer skills attracted most, if not all, students who were indeed beginners and needed a lot of supervision. Since that time, the computer experience of students choosing this class has increased dramatically. However, each semester I still find one or two relatively novice computer users, and I have never had a semester that anyone has told me their skills did not advance, even the Computer Science & Engineering majors!

Do you prefer teaching online to regular classroom teaching? Absolutely, online is my first preference. It's that asynchronous element —

you choose the time and the place! Both student and professor alike can check their work/course materials when it's convenient.

There is a perception that an instructor can't get to know a student well in an online course. Do you agree with that? Not really. When an online student realizes that you will answer any and all questions, they begin to feel a rapport with you. I believe you can detect personalities even through email, and get a good idea of that person just by language phrases used and a sense of humor (or not), courtesy, ability levels, etc. just from "conversing" with someone electronically.

How were you affected by Hurricane Katrina? I was born in New Orleans, and my family just happened to be there the week Katrina hit. We had gravitated north to Mississippi, which was somewhat better off, but still saw a lot of wind damage. One family member lost her home; she and her family got out early, but have nothing to return to. Like most, they will be starting over. Finally, I have to say that the generous response of the American people to this tragedy has been awesome.



Marge Hewlett & grandson, Drew

"My perspective is that the expertise needed in the applications covered by this course is best achieved by "doing," not just theory."



Millard Fillmore College

Continuing and Professional Studies

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Larry R. Gingrich, Publisher

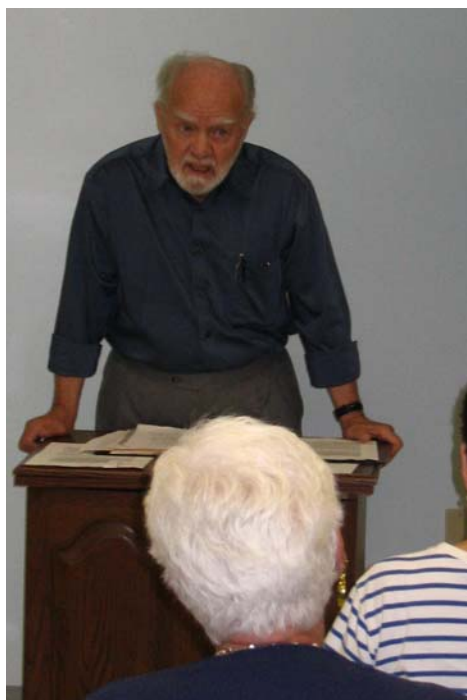
Tim Hartigan, Editor

Al Gellin, Assistant Editor



Millard Fillmore College is an administrative college of the University at Buffalo. Founded in 1923, it is named after UB's first chancellor—and the United States' 13th president—and is dedicated to providing continuing and professional studies for non-traditional students. MFC courses, both seated and online, carry academic credit that can be applied to MFC certificates and UB degrees. Presently, MFC offers certificates in Computing and Network Management, Entrepreneurship, International Trade, Paralegal Studies, Public Relations/Advertising, Health Care Administration, and Health and Human Resources.

Photo Gallery



Left—MFC's Tim Hartigan runs in the Corporate Challenge in Delaware Park on a muggy June evening (photo: Nancy J. Parisi)

Center—Paul Reitan lectures as part of the Erie County Lifelong Learning Program at the Tonawanda Senior Center (Tim Hartigan)

Right—Millard Fillmore looking out over Buffalo from City Hall (Tim Hartigan)