

MCC Grads Enter Arizona's Biotech Workforce



Christopher Smoke, 26, of Phoenix, graduated from the MCC Biotechnology Program in 2004 and is now an advisor for the program. He also works as a student researcher at Arizona State University, where he will receive a bachelor's degree in molecular biosciences and biotechnology this December.

Smoke said was hooked on biotechnology after just a few weeks in classes with MCC instructors Lewis Obermiller and Stanley Kikkert.

"The instructors at MCC made learning biotechnology as smooth as possible and their personable styles created a good learning environment," Smoke said.

Smoke also enjoyed the hands-on approach of the classes.

"You were able to see everything happen before your eyes," Smoke said. "We cut DNA from one organism to transform it into another organism."

Smoke said he would definitely recommend MCC's Biotechnology Program to students.

"The lab skills and problem-solving skills you learn increase your opportunity to market yourself to research labs," Smoke said. "You receive a rounded view of science that you can take in different directions."

Stephanie Savage, 30, of Scottsdale, was a former emergency medical technician (EMT) who was frustrated with not being able to do enough for her patients. She entered the MCC Biotechnology Program and now works as a research associate at TGen.

Savage called the MCC program "intense," which was just what she was looking for.

"I like to jump into things," Savage said. "The DNA concept was overwhelming, but the instructors are geniuses and their excitement was contagious. They sparked my interest, so I studied harder."

Through Obermiller's connections with TGen, Savage secured an internship at TGen and now has a paid, full-time position there. She does genetic testing on preserved tissue specimens. In her work at TGen, Savage has noticed that new employees who have gone through the MCC program enter the workforce better prepared than others.

"MCC classes are set up so you graduate more advanced than workers with undergraduate degrees from other schools," said Savage, who also attends ASU to further pursue her interest in biotechnology.

Szabolcs Szeling, 33, of Phoenix, entered MCC's Biotechnology Program in 2001 and was one of the first students to graduate from the program with an Associate of Applied Science in Biotechnology. He interned at the VA hospital in Phoenix, and now works as a paid, full-time research associate at TGen.

Szeling said he watched the program expand as more and more educators got involved.

"Instructors like Obermiller and Kikkert brought quality and a sense of excitement to the program," Szeling said. "Dr. Kikkert did an awesome job of maintaining the quality of the class."

Szeling enjoys being part of the future through biotechnology and now trains master-degreed new employees how to do lab work at TGen.

"The hands-on experience from MCC prepared me well for my job," said Szeling, now an ASU student whose long-term goal is to earn a master's degree in molecular biology.

Alumnus Frank Morales creates new scholarship fund with legacy gift



Frank and Susan Morales crated a scholarship fund in the name of MCC Biology instructor Barbara McGaughey (right)

Frank Morales had always been interested in serving as a Spanish medical interpreter. So when he came to MCC in the early 90s in pursuit of his associate of arts and associate of general studies degrees, he opted to take Biology 160 with Barbara McGaughey as an elective - a decision which set the wheels in motion for one of the most rewarding experiences of his life.

"I was like a ship without a rudder, looking for something that would hold my interest when I retired."

"I was like a ship without a rudder, looking for something that would hold my interest when I retired," Morales said. Knowing about Morales's interest in becoming a Spanish medical interpreter, McGaughey referred him to a program at Chandler Regional Medical Center where doctors went to farms to provide care for

itinerant workers who didn't have insurance or transportation. "I told professor McGaughey I didn't think I was ready, but she said I was," Morales said.

Encouraged, Morales approached Chandler Regional about becoming a volunteer. The farm worker program had ended, but there was need for his skills at the information desk and working with children who were receiving immunization shots.

McGaughey set Morales on a path to complete courses in anatomy and physiology and pathophysiology while continuing to grow in his volunteerism. He eventually started volunteering at Banner Desert Medical Center and enrolled in an intense 3-month course through Banner Good Samaritan hospital to become a Certified Medical Interpreter. Morales has since volunteered innumerable hours at local hospitals and clinics and has taught medical Spanish to doctors at Banner Good Samaritan. Morales currently teaches beginning Spanish at MCC.

"The past six years have been the most rewarding and fulfilling of my life," Morales said. "I created an endowed scholarship in Barbara McGaughey's name because of her inspiration and encouragement."

The Barbara McGaughey scholarship will be awarded to a Nursing student. "I am deeply honored to have a scholarship named after me and humbled by Frank and Susan Morales's generosity," McGaughey said. "It's wonderful for people like Frank, who have been involved in education, to support it in a way that helps students financially. It's great that Frank specifically chose for this scholarship to go to nursing students because it recognizes the great need we have for well educated nurses and the wonderful job our nursing department does. It's also especially meaningful to me because my mother and two sisters were nurses and my mother would be thrilled if she were alive to know about the scholarship."

To learn more about making a gift to MCC, contact the Development Office at 480-461-7356 or visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/development/.

Career Focus magazine

MCC is proud to introduce the inaugural issue of *Career Focus*, a joint venture between Mesa Community College, Rio Salado College, and Chandler-Gilbert Community College. *Career Focus* promotes the benefits of attending our

three East Valley Maricopa Community Colleges by showcasing programs, student success stories, transfer options, affordability, and other news of interest to potential students, particularly those students in the eighteen to

thirty-two year old age range. Check it out at www.mc.maricopa.edu/academics/spotlight/career_focus/CareerFocus.pdf or call 480-461-7445 for your copy!

A Maricopa Community College District is an EEO/AA institution.

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MCC Grads Enter Arizona's Biotech Workforce

In response to Arizona's rapidly-growing biotechnology industry, Mesa Community College is joining forces with Mesa Public Schools and Arizona State University to fill the increased need for skilled bioscience lab technicians and researchers.



Stan Iwai, an alumnus of MCC's Biotech program, works at Barrow Neurological Institute.

With help from a \$900,000 National Science Foundation grant, MCC's current biotechnology program will participate in a 2 + 2 + 2 education model where MCC students work in conjunction with ASU's Polytechnic students and Mesa Public School's high school students on an integrated genome project. Students at varying levels of expertise will contribute to the project and be co-authors of published research findings.

"This provides tremendous opportunities for students while filling a critical workforce need for the state in the biotechnology field," said Lewis Obermiller, co-director of MCC's Biotechnology Program.

Biotechnologists find, purify, and use the specific DNA sequences that carry the instructions for making particular enzymes, hormones, and other substances in order to manufacture products beneficial to human health and well-being. The processes have been around for thousands of years, with microorganisms used for fermentation processes to make bread, brew alcohol, and produce cheese. The tools that the scientists currently use to modify organisms were developed fairly recently.

At MCC, students can receive a Certificate in Biotechnology, an Associate of Applied Science in Biotechnology, or transfer to a university.

Instructors spark student interest by offering students hands-on experiments that engage and motivate the students. At a recent instructor-training workshop at MCC, Mesa High School science teachers used a Dorito chip and a mango to learn how to determine whether they were genetically modified.

"A lot of times students think science is very dry and stuffy," said Stanley Kikkert, co-director of MCC's Biotechnology Program. "But in science, you have to be creative. We work with ideas and we test those ideas to see if they are true."

In addition to student and faculty training, the NSF grant will allow MCC to work on establishing a formal partnership agreement with the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) for MCC faculty and student research internships. Many MCC students have already interned at TGen and several currently hold full-time jobs there.

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Spotlight on Careers

Be sure to look for a dynamic new section on MCC's website called Spotlight on Careers. The page provides potential students with the opportunity to view short video clips on today's hottest occupations. The videos are a collaborative effort between MCC Media Arts Instructor Cyndi Greening, MCC Media Arts students, and MCC's Marketing Department. Mary Jordan, MCC's Coordinator of Marketing, said this pilot project came to life when Greening approached Marketing with the idea of promoting programs online via videos featuring interviews with professors, students, and career professionals.

"Our collaborative intent was to further position MCC as the primary educational resource for preparation for today's job market," Jordan said. "Utilizing MCC's

website for marketing purposes responds to the desire of today's students to find key information online and reduces our dependence on print materials."

The four career programs that are spotlighted include biotechnology, dental assisting, media arts, and nurse assisting. The four programs were chosen based on course availability and employment opportunities. In addition to interviews with MCC professors and students, Gov. Janet Napolitano's economic policy adviser, Darcy Renfro, is featured on the videos and provides job opportunity statistics.

Jordan said Greening was instrumental in overseeing the project.

"Greening brought her teaching and real-world expertise to the project," Jordan said.

"She divided the students into teams and immediately started filming interviews and editing the footage."

The end result was very advantageous for both MCC students and MCC's Marketing Department. The students gained valuable hands-on working experience while producing a high-quality marketing product for the college. Plans are in the works to create a specific Media Arts class to produce more videos for the college.

"We will be developing this project further by building on the collaboration with Instruction, Marketing, and MCC's Media Arts Department to highlight more programs and transfer opportunities," Jordan said.

View the video presentations at: www.mc.maricopa.edu/academics/spotlight.

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Message from the President



As the fall semester begins at Mesa Community College, plans for MCC's \$111 million portion of the 2004 bond initiative continue to move forward. Through collaboration and community partnerships, we've created a plan to build new facilities and refurbish existing buildings in a cost-effective manner. When you return to visit MCC, expect to see several changes on our campuses.

On the east side of the Southern and Dobson campus, a new parking area will join the existing northeast and southeast lots, to be completed by December 2006. Additional security cameras and new computerized key systems will enhance security campus wide.

On the west side of campus, groundbreaking for a new physical science building is anticipated for January 2007. Facility plans originally called for the construction of new Physical Science and Health and Wellness buildings. The impact of rising construction costs created the need for a new approach to plans for the Health and Wellness building, slated as the last building to be constructed at Southern and Dobson. Faculty in the Physical Sciences and Health and Wellness departments collaborated to construct one building with the same square footage as the two that were originally proposed. Once the new Physical Science building is completed, the existing Physical Science building will be refurbished into a state-of-the-art facility. The remodel is scheduled to begin March 2008.

Future goals continue to evolve as faculty and college leaders examine classroom needs to accommodate growth. Construction to expand our Red Mountain campus is scheduled for April 2008, and groundbreaking for the Performing and Fine Arts building at Southern and Dobson is scheduled for 2010. Plans for MCC's downtown campus are also in the works as we partner with the City of Mesa to build a Fire Science Training Academy.

This is an exciting time as MCC develops partnerships to meet the educational needs of our community. We will continue to provide updates on MCC construction projects in future issues of MCC's Alumni and Friends newsletter.

Larry K. Christiansen
President

MCC Partners with Mesa Arts Center

Now you can earn college credit while expressing your creative side at the Mesa Arts Center. Mesa Community College and the Mesa Arts Center have entered a cooperative partnership to make art studio classes available to residents with the option of earning college credit. If students are not interested in earning credit, they may request a "pass" option from their instructors.

The Mesa Arts Center's adult art classes will be facilitated and taught by Mesa Arts Center instructors while MCC staff work behind the scenes to assure the classes continue to meet the highest standards.

"MCC is pleased to partner with the City of Mesa and the Mesa Arts Center in this exciting new endeavor," said Rodney Holmes, dean of instruction at MCC. "Increased access to state-of-the-art facilities, studio time, and cutting-edge equipment will be of great benefit to the students and community members who take advantage of these new opportunities."

Mesa Arts Center's adult education program was designated to cease operation as part of cost reduction measures for the City of Mesa's 2006-2007 budget. Mesa Community College came forward as an ideal partner because of their current expansion plans for facilities and programs in the Downtown Mesa area.

The partnership will allow the Mesa Arts Center to charge less for some classes. Classes are available in theatre, dance, ceramics, sculpture, and many other disciplines. The sessions follow a 16-week semester.

To view the arts studios catalog, visit the Mesa Arts Center website at www.mesaartscenter.com and then register for classes on the MCC website at www.mc.maricopa.edu. If you are currently enrolled in MCC, click on "Express Registration." If you are not currently enrolled at MCC, you must first enroll as a student by clicking on "Getting Started," which will lead you through a quick enrollment process so you can proceed to registration. Students can also call MCC at 480-461-7700 or the Mesa Arts Center art studios at 480-644-6520 for more information. Students no longer register for adult classes at the Mesa Arts Center on the City of Mesa WebTrac.



Get Your Game On!

Homecoming 2006

Saturday, November 4, 2006
Barbecue 12:00 p.m.

Center of campus, in front of clock tower*
Silent Auction 12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m.
Proceeds to benefit student scholarships at MCC

Program
12:30 p.m.

Homecoming Football Game 2:00 p.m.
MCC Thunderbirds vs.
Scottsdale Community College Artichokes

*In the event of inclement weather, the barbecue will be relocated to the Kirk Student Center

Make your reservation by Monday, October 30 by calling
480-461-7501 or online at
highcastle.mc.maricopa.edu/fmi/iwp/res/iwp_auth.html
Admission is free.

MCC Alumni collaborates with the MAC to increase alumni benefits

MCC alumni card holders are enjoying additional benefits through a new collaboration between the MCC Alumni



Association and the Mesa Arts Center (MAC). Any member of our association who holds an alumni card can now receive a 10% discount to the Store at the Mesa Arts Center and email notification of special promotions on tickets to Performing Live events at the MAC.

Performing Live presents world-class national and international professional touring artists.

Requesting your alumni card puts you on our active membership list and entitles you to a variety of services:

- Invitations to special events and ceremonies
- Informational updates about the college available exclusively for card holders
- Discounted tickets to the Theatre Outback

- A 10% discount at the MCC Bookstore on merchandise bearing the MCC logo
- Free library privileges
- Free use of MCC Career Services

To request your card, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at nikki.strougter@mccmail.maricopa.edu or 480-461-7445. Benefits will continue to be added, so be sure to notify the Alumni Office of any name, email, or address changes.

MCC'S AWARD WINNING ALUMNI!

Do you know an outstanding MCC alum who deserves recognition? Nominate him or her for the Alumni Achievement Award! Applications are reviewed based on the individual's professional accomplishments and service to their professions and communities. Awardees will be honored in the spring.

Information about the nomination process is available at www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni or by calling the Office of Alumni Relations at 480-461-7792.

Nominations are due January 8, 2007.

Exclusive offer for MCC alumni to purchase cell phones through Cingular Wireless

5% of your monthly bill goes back to MCC through partnership agreement

Looking for a deal on a new cell phone and a way to make a donation to your alma mater? A new partnership between Cingular Wireless and the Maricopa County Community Colleges Foundation may be the solution you seek.

Now through January 31st, MCC alumni can take advantage of this unique offer. Here's the breakdown. By creating a new account with Cingular, you'll get:

1. A \$30 credit for the phone or handset (one per phone number - an alum who wants to put the entire family on this plan will get \$30 off for each phone line).
2. Waived activation fee.
3. Five percent of recurring monthly charges are given to the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation for use by the college you designate (recurring monthly charges do not include overtime charges or costs which are calculated on a per-use basis).

Alumni who already have a Cingular account can transfer into the program.

This exclusive offer for MCC alumni is only available through the Cingular store located at Stapley and Baseline, 1859 S. Stapley Drive, #106, Mesa, AZ, 85204. Contact store manager Justin Jackson at 480-926-2777 for additional information. Cingular will also be providing a special promotion at MCC's Homecoming on November 4. Don't miss it! Cingular will verify your status as a MCC alum by asking to see your alumni card. Don't have one? Call 480-461-7445 or email nikki.strougter@mccmail.maricopa.edu to request an alumni card.

ALUMNI OUTINGS

Enjoy networking with fellow alumni at one of our outings. For planning purposes, RSVP for each of the activities listed below is required. Contact Nikki Strougter at nikki.strougter@mccmail.maricopa.edu or 480-461-7445. Please include your name and your guest's name as well as a contact phone number and email address. Are you interested in attending these events, but just can't make it? Let us know – we need your feedback!

D-vine Wine Bar and Bistro
October 5, 2006

Open house from 5:00–8:00 p.m.
2837-101 N. Power Road
Mesa, AZ 85207
480-654-4171
www.dvnewine101.com

Located in the "Village at Las Sendas" shopping center at Power and McDowell roads.

Wine tasting accompanied by live entertainment awaits you at D-vine. Five dollars gives you an opportunity to taste five wine varietals specially selected by D-vine's sommelier. Special offers for MCC alumni attending this event include \$2 off per glass and a chance to win a free bottle of wine courtesy of D-vine.

D-vine opened in April 2005 and stands out as a unique establishment that places as much emphasis on the food as it does on the wine. They have over 220 labels (40 by the glass), and the menu features a delicious variety of choices such as tapas, bruschettas, pasta, and dinner entrees.

Accolades for D-vine:

- "Best New Restaurant in Mesa" - *East Valley Tribune*
- "One of the top five wine bars in the Valley" - *Sonoran Living*
- "The most exciting restaurant in Mesa" - *Get Out Magazine*
- "Best Wine Bar in Mesa" - *Sonoran Spotlight Magazine*

Food and beverage expenses to be covered by individual attendees.

MCC at Red Mountain 5th Anniversary Celebration



October 19, 2006
Open house from 3:00–6:00 p.m.
Reception 4:30 p.m.
Program and group photo 5:00 p.m.
7110 East McKellips Road,
Mesa, AZ 85207
480-654-7200
Northeast corner of Power and McKellips roads.

Join in celebrating 5 years of service to our community at our location in northeast Mesa. Enjoy campus tours led by student ambassadors and a stroll down the Environmental Walk with faculty presentations at featured stops along the path. The event concludes with a group photo. Be a part of history in the making!

Downtown Mesa Holiday Walk

November 30, 2006
5:30–8:00 p.m.
44 West Main Street
Mesa, Arizona 85201
480-464-5700



The unique and eclectic shops of downtown Mesa open their doors especially for MCC alumni for this evening holiday shopping event. Our walking tour begins at Mango's Mexican restaurant and features stops at select downtown business for shopping and informative presentations designed specifically for MCC alumni.

Food and beverage expenses to be covered by individual attendees.

Take a ride to historic Jerome, AZ, America's most vertical city and largest ghost town! Motorcycle enthusiasts (and those interested in coming along in other vehicles) are invited to enjoy Arizona's beautiful spring-time weather while visiting Jerome: mining community turned tourist and artist mecca. Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at marcy.snitzer@mccmail.maricopa.edu or 480-461-7792 by October 30 to express your interest. Date and activities related to the fun run will be set based on participants' riding abilities.

MOTORCYCLE FUN RUN!



Check out what's happening at MCC

A sample of the many events MCC offers is listed below. For a complete list, visit the college's online events calendar at www.mc.maricopa.edu/events/. To view schedules for MCC's excellent athletic teams, visit our website at <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/services/athletics/> and click on the "sports" link.

September 26

Who Decides What You Can See?
A panel discussion on Banning Books from Mesa Libraries
Center for Global Tolerance and Engagement – Paul Elsner Library, LB145

September 28–October 1 & October 5–8

An Enemy of the People
Theatre Arts – Theatre Outback

October 17

Trial by Jury – A new Way to Make Law
Center for Global Tolerance and Engagement – Paul Elsner Library, LB145

October 25–28

Parade
Act 1 Musical Theatre – Theatre Outback

October 30

What is Sport Psychology and How Can It Help You?
Presenter: Marc Strickland, Psy.D.
Psychology Evening Lecture Series
Kirk Student Center, Navajo room

November 2–3

Fall Dance Concert
Theatre Outback

November 3

Sports Hall of Fame
Dobson Ranch Inn

November 4

Homecoming football game
John D. Riggs Stadium

November 14

National Issues Forum: "Freedom of Expression"
Center for Global Tolerance and Engagement – Paul Elsner Library, LB145

November 30–December 2

13 Rue de L'Amore
Theatre Arts – Theatre Outback