

# Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association



Many paramedics have the background and experience necessary to become a nurse. Some are choosing to expand their education by enrolling in the Paramedic to Registered Nurse (RN) Bridge Program at Mesa Community College.

This tailored program allows paramedics to fast-track their education to become qualified as an RN in two to three additional semesters. By building on their existing skills, Paramedics can eliminate repeat content and coursework they have already mastered.

Kristen Minnick, a 2012 MCC graduate, benefited by completing the program. Prior to coming to MCC, Kristen worked as a full-time firefighter/paramedic for the City of Goodyear. She would work 48 hours and then had 96 hours off on a continuous rotation every week.

When asked why she chose to complete this program, Kristen explained, "The main reason I chose to complete the Paramedic to RN program was because it condensed Block One and Two from 32 weeks to 12 weeks. With this course being offered at an accelerated pace, I was able to successfully complete it over the summer of 2011 and then jump right into Block 3 in the fall semester of 2011 at MCC. This cut down the extra amount of time I would have to spend going to school as well as taking time off from my full-time job."

**Kristen was mostly drawn to the program because of the online availability.** She stated, "I am a very self-motivated person and this was the perfect way for me to complete this part of the program. It helped eliminate a lot of time driving to and from school."

There were sacrifices that Kristen had to make to accomplish her goal of becoming a RN. In addition to taking vacation time from work and trading shifts, she had a 75 mile commute, one way, from her home to her clinical site at Banner Baywood Hospital. With clinicals every Thursday and Friday, she would stay in the hotel which meant she was away from her family.

"I committed myself to staying at the Best Western Inn and Suites every Thursday night so I wouldn't be driving back and forth so much. Also, every other Wednesday I had to be on campus for

the day to take an exam and to complete lab skills. Therefore, I also stayed at the hotel on Wednesday nights to cut down on the hours I would be wasting driving. I felt like this was going to be the only way for me to make this program successfully work for me. My husband was a very big help throughout this entire program because he knew I was spending so much time studying the material and going to classes and clinicals that I wasn't able to do my part around the house. He took over all the responsibilities around the house and was able to help me out with some of my trades at work too."

Kristen's paramedic training provided a strong foundation but she admits there were some nursing skills that were new. "I thought the questions on the exams were a lot harder than what I had experienced before because they were more geared to what the NCLEX exam was going to be like. Also, I had to change the way I would answer the nursing questions and learn how to study differently in the nursing program compared to when I obtained my paramedic license."

The sacrifices and commitments have paid off for Kristen. She continues to work as a full-time firefighter/paramedic for the City of Goodyear and was recently hired for a part-time Emergency Dept RN position at West Valley Hospital.

*See Page 5 for Information Session schedule*

## Fall 2012

President's Message .....	<b>Page 2</b>	Scholarship Recipients.....	<b>Page 4</b>
MCC Student-NBC Reporter.....	<b>Page 2</b>	Albright College Scholarships .....	<b>Page 4</b>
The Impossible Project.....	<b>Page 3</b>	Leadership Team .....	<b>Page 4</b>
Launch of New Website.....	<b>Page 3</b>	Homecoming .....	<b>Page 5</b>



## President's Message

Greetings! At Mesa Community College, student success and completion continues to be our number one priority. You have heard me say this over and over again during the past four years.

That's because our students deserve a strong educational path to success, particularly in this fast changing local and global economy. As alumni, I know you must be proud that MCC continuously ranks among the finest community colleges in the nation.

I want to update you on progress relative to one of our four strategic priorities: e-Learning. October 2nd and 3rd we will welcome a team from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association to our campus to begin the accreditation process that would allow MCC to offer online degrees and certificates. While MCC has offered online courses for many years, without approval from our accrediting agency, we are unable to offer this online degree option to our students.

The accreditation process is rigorous and thorough. We are fortunate to have Dr. Roger Yohe's leadership as Dean of Innovative Learning. I have no doubt that his energy, commitment and experience will put MCC in the forefront of online learning.

The world of higher education is on the cusp of a significant revolution, spurred by competition from digital learning systems. Today's students need flexible education options. There are more demands on their lives. Many students work. Many students have families. Dean Yohe says there are three reasons that online learning is becoming a significant option for students: "flexibility, flexibility, flexibility". If flexibility is what many of our students need, then it is up to us to provide high-quality online education opportunities for them.

We face some challenges. All new efforts do. We know there is a significant gap between student retention online and the traditional face-to-face option. We are working on decreasing that gap.

Our long-term commitment to providing students with new learning options is one way of keeping our college forward thinking and our students successful. We will keep you informed as we build and grow MCC's new online opportunities. You can also keep up with our progress at [www.mesacc.edu/elearning](http://www.mesacc.edu/elearning)

Shouan Pan, Ph.D.  
MCC President

Zahid Arab of NBC's KING 5 News in Seattle is known as a compassionate reporter who gets the big story by gaining the trust of those he interviews. He provides crime victims and their families the opportunity for their voice to be heard.

Arab, who graduated from Mesa Community College in 2004, credits his experience at MCC for teaching him the interpersonal skills he uses in his job today. He said Duane Oakes, MCC's Chapter Advisor of Phi Theta Kappa, and other instructors helped nurture his potential and provided him with valuable experiences.

"Without Duane and other teachers reaching out every day in classes, I don't think I'd be where I am today," Arab said. "The leadership and confidence I gained in PTK catapulted me in my career."

During his time at MCC, Arab majored in journalism and wrote for the Mesa Legend. He worked as a counselor in Multicultural



### BREAKING NEWS

## MCC Student Now NBC Reporter

Services and served as a PTK Regional President and International Vice President. After graduating from MCC, he earned a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Arizona State University.

Directly out of college, he covered the presidential candidates during the 2008 Iowa Caucus as a reporter at KCAU. He interviewed Barack Obama, Hilary Clinton and John Edwards, among others. Arab said his ability to feel at ease with the political heavy-hitters came from his experience as a PTK officer.

"Speaking to people, asking questions, researching topics, all of that helped me as a reporter," Arab said. "I felt leaps and bounds above others who had just graduated. I always wanted to be a reporter, but I don't think I'd be as successful."

Arab was awarded an Iowa Associated Press Award for uncovering a flaw in a local sex offender law. He went on to report the news in Honolulu and Las Vegas and now works as a general assignment reporter in Seattle. On a recent visit back to MCC, Arab helped PTK students kick off their C4 College Completion signature wall and reminisced about his time at MCC.

"For me, it was not just a campus, but a culture of success," Arab said. **"At MCC, you're not just a number; you're someone that faculty and staff really want to teach."**



# MCC Employee Takes a Shot at The Impossible Project

Neal Winter is not a mainstream modern photographer. He creates images by using plastic toy cameras that leak light, resulting in highly original images when printed. Winter's unusual artistry is based on educated guessing and experimentation.

A few years ago, Winter followed his passion for experimentation and became involved in an effort called The Impossible Project. As a result, two of his photos recently appeared in a New York photography exhibit.

"It was pretty exciting to learn my work would be in the exhibit," said Winter, who works as a photo and computer technician at Mesa Community College. "There are only 12 photographers in the show with only a couple of images from each person. Just to have the opportunity is great."

The Impossible Project started with a small team of former Polaroid employees who shared a passion for reinventing instant film. In October 2008, when Polaroid closed its factories, the team saved the last Polaroid production plant in Enschede, Netherlands. Because the original Polaroid dyes were no longer available, they had to start from scratch and invent totally new instant film materials (one of the reasons for the name, The Impossible Project).

Winter assisted in the efforts from the beginning, taking photos from his location in the Southwest to test the new film materials. Hundreds of other photographers from different locations around the world conducted similar tests. Winter was one of the only photographers in the project from the Southwest, allowing for testing to take place in the unique climate conditions here.

Then, a few months ago, Impossible released their first 8 x 10 film to these test photographers. Winters acquired the film and was asked to submit photos for the exhibit.

"I've gotten to know these people over the last 2 years by talking to them over the phone," Winter said. "It's nice they noticed me. Their product lends itself very well to my style of photography."

## LAUNCH OF THE NEW WEBSITE

Mesa Community College launched a new website in early September. Designed with a fresh user-friendly experience and engaging presentation, visitors to the website can now find easy access to programs, resources and services. There is also a prominent focus on attracting future students.

Take a look and let us know what you think. [www.mesacc.edu](http://www.mesacc.edu)

The website homepage for Mesa Community College. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for "HOME", "ABOUT MCC", "CONTACT MCC", "STUDENT LIFE", "ACADEMICS", and "ADMISSIONS". Below the header, there's a large banner image of a building with people walking outside. To the left of the banner, there's a section titled "BECOME A STUDENT" with links for "APPLY NOW", "FINANCIAL AID", "CLASS SCHEDULE", "SCHEDULE A TOUR", and "CONTACT US". To the right of the banner, there's a section titled "Programs & Degrees" with links for "FRESHMAN & UNDERGRADUATE", "GRADUATE STUDENTS", "COMMUNITY & ALUMNI", and "ABOUT MCC". Below the banner, there's a section titled "Programs & Degrees" with links for "Future Students", "Current Students", "Transferring", and "Learning". There are also sections for "Degrees & Certificates" and "Progress by Department".

# Meet the Alumni Scholarship Recipients



**Lauren Basler**

Major: Nursing

"I want to make a difference in someone's life as many medical professionals have made a difference in mine. My goal in school is to do my very best to reach my degree in nursing. I want to excel and learn as much as I can so one day I can help others."

Lauren plans to transfer to Arizona State University after she receives her Associates degree from MCC.

"I would like to receive my Associate's Degree in Business here at Mesa Community College. After this, I would like to transfer to the W.P. Carey School of Business. I would like to go into supply management. I chose this degree because I can do multiple careers with that type of degree. I can go into business analytics, logistics consultant, imports/exports agents, and many more careers."



**Daniel Brennan**

Major: Business

Daniel plans to graduate from MCC and then transfer to Arizona State University.



## ALBRIGHT COLLEGE OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO MCC ALUMNI

Albright College, one of MCC's newest partners, launched an accelerated degree program at its Mesa location this September. Program participants can complete a bachelor's degree in approximately 24 months. To sweeten the deal, Albright is offering a \$2,500 scholarship to all alumni who hold an associate's degree from MCC or any other Maricopa Community College.

The accelerated degree program is designed for working adults ages 23 and up. All programs consist of 16 courses that meet one night a week for two years. A cohort learning style offers a group of students the opportunity to begin a course of study together and continue until their degree is completed, providing support and encouragement along the way.

Programs available in Mesa are Applied Psychology, Business Administration, and Information Systems. With a new cohort starting every 5-6 weeks, students can begin any time during the year.

Albright College is based in Reading, Pennsylvania. They began offering the accelerated degree program in Pennsylvania in 1997, and 88% of the students who begin the program successfully complete it. Albright opened its Mesa program this fall, and is one of several new colleges participating in the City of Mesa's initiative to bring more higher education options to the region.

For more information, call 855-252-2749 or visit <http://mesa.albright.edu/>.

## MCC's Leadership Team

Mesa Community College welcomes **Patrick Burkhardt**, the new Provost for the Red Mountain Campus and Downtown Center. Burkhardt brings experience in workforce development, fundraising, and strategic planning to his position at MCC.

Burkhardt said he is looking forward to contributing to the future of MCC.



*"Mesa Community College is an extraordinary institution playing a catalytic role in shaping the future of the East Valley," Burkhardt said. "Its vitality, vision, as well as its legacy of innovation, excellence and leadership is truly palpable. I am equally excited and honored to have been selected to be a part of this vibrant educational community."*

The selection of Burkhardt completes MCC's College Leadership team, with all permanent positions now filled. The team members and the year they joined MCC are:



**James C. Mabry,**  
Vice President of  
Academic Affairs,  
July 2008



**Jeff Darbut,**  
Vice President of  
Administrative  
Services,  
June 2011



**Sasan  
Poureetezadi,**  
Vice President  
of Information  
Technology,  
June 2011



**Sonya Pearson,**  
Vice President of  
Student Affairs,  
April 2010

# Thunderbird Madness

The Office of the President  
and the MCC Alumni Association

invite you to attend

Mesa Community College's

**2012 Homecoming Festival**

Saturday, October 13, 2012

John D. Riggs Stadium – Festival on field  
adjacent to the south end  
*(rain or shine)*

**Barbecue and Games 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**President's Program Alumni VIP Tent 5:30 p.m.**

Be sure to check in at the alumni tent to receive  
a special gift (must RSVP!)

**Homecoming Football Game 7:00 p.m.**

**MCC Thunderbirds vs. Snow College Badgers**



**RSVP today at [mesacc.edu/homecoming](http://mesacc.edu/homecoming)  
or call 480.461.7794.**



[www.mesacc.edu](http://www.mesacc.edu)



## INFORMATION SCHEDULE FOR PARAMEDIC TO RN BRIDGE PROGRAM

People interested in the Paramedic to RN Bridge Program should attend a session to learn about prerequisites and requirements for admission. Sessions are scheduled for:

**November 8, 2012**

**Time:** 11am - 12pm

**Where:** MCC Health & Wellness Building  
(Room: HW812)

**January 8, 2013**

**Time:** 3pm

**Where:** MCC Health & Wellness Building  
(Room: TBA)

**March 13, 2013**

**Time:** 5pm

**Where:** MCC Health & Wellness Building  
(Room: TBA)

Further information about the Paramedic to RN Bridge program can be obtained by contacting Glenna Bayer at 480.461.7233 or [Glenna.bayer@mesacc.edu](mailto:Glenna.bayer@mesacc.edu).

## MCC Advisor Selected for Leadership Award

*Wells Fargo has selected Juanita Tarango as one of the 40 Hispanic Leaders Under 40.*  
Tarango was presented with the award on Oct. 3 at the Arizona Biltmore Resort in Phoenix.

Recipients of the award were selected from more than 60 nominations. They were chosen based on a comprehensive evaluation of their impact on community and excellence in leadership and represent corporate, healthcare, government, non-profit and arts & culture sectors across Arizona.

*Tarango is a program advisor in Multicultural Affairs at MCC and is a member of the college's Inclusive Excellence committee.*





Alumni Relations  
1833 West Southern Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85202

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Phoenix, AZ  
Permit No. 662



Find MCC on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/mesacc](http://www.facebook.com/mesacc)



Follow MCC at  
[www.twitter.com/mesacc](http://www.twitter.com/mesacc)



View videos at  
[www.youtube.com/mesacc](http://www.youtube.com/mesacc)



#### EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN

*Alumni & Friends* is published by the Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) for the alumni of Mesa Community College.

**Editor** Marcy Snitzer  
**Phone** 480.461.7792  
**Email** [marcy.snitzer@mesacc.edu](mailto:marcy.snitzer@mesacc.edu)

# Mark Your Calendar

## October 13

**Homecoming Festival, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Football Game, 7:00 p.m.**

Riggs Stadium, Southern and Dobson Campus  
RSVP at [mesacc.edu/homecoming](http://mesacc.edu/homecoming) or call 480.461.7794

## October 17, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Empty Bowls, Fundraiser for Paz de Cristo**

Silent Auction, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Center Courtyard, Southern and Dobson Campus

## October 18-20, 24-26, 7:30 p.m.

## October 20, 27, 2:00 p.m.

**My Favorite Year**

Theatre Outback, Southern and Dobson Campus

## October 22, 7:00 p.m.

**Evening Lecture Series in Psychology**

**Sociometry: Who's in Your Social Atom**

Fiesta Fountains, 1316 S. Longmore, Mesa, AZ

## October 24, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Empty Bowls, Fundraiser for Paz de Cristo**

Mesquite Building, Red Mountain Campus

## October 24, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Food Day**

Rio Salado College

## October 25, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**VICC-The Next Advance in Education**

MCC Downtown Campus

## November 1-2, 7:30 p.m.

**Fall Dance Production**

Theatre Outback, Southern and Dobson Campus

## November 2, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

**Astronomy Nights**

Planetarium shows every half hour

Physical Science Building,

Southern and Dobson Campus

## November 6, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Celebrate 50 – Celebrate Life**

Saguaro Mall, Red Mountain Campus

## November 14, 7:00 p.m.

**Evening Lecture Series in Psychology**

**Unraveling the Mysteries of Bipolar Disorders**

Fiesta Fountains, 1316 S. Longmore, Mesa, AZ

## November 17, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**50th Anniversary Celebration at the Rose Show**  
AS Bldg. Corridor, Southern and Dobson Campus

## November 30, December 1, 6, and 7, 7:30 p.m.

**December 1 and 8, 2:00 p.m.**

**Zorro**

Theatre Outback, Southern and Dobson Campus

## December 7, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

**Astronomy Nights**

Planetarium shows every half hour

Southwest Physical Science Building,

Southern and Dobson Campus

## December 7, 7:00 p.m.

**Fall Dance Classes Showcase**

East Gym, Southern and Dobson Campus

## January 25-26, 31 and February 1, 7:30 p.m.

**January 26 and February 2, 2:00 p.m.**

**Caucasian Chalk Circle**

Theatre Outback, Southern and Dobson Campus

For a complete listing of events and times, check out our online calendars.

**GENERAL MCC EVENTS** [mesacc.edu/alumni](http://mesacc.edu/alumni) then click EVENTS CALENDAR    **ATHLETICS** [athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules](http://athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules)