



Alumni & Friends

❄️ Spring 2015

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association



1965 TO 2015

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

MESACC.EDU/50



– A letter from our –

President

To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, MCC has constructed a website to document and celebrate the successes of our students, faculty and staff. I invite you to peruse student success stories, photo galleries, and a timeline of major events in the development of MCC at www.mesacc.edu/50.

Relive our history with us, witness how far we've come in five decades, and how many lives we've touched in the process. It's what we do best, and at MCC, we're proud of our legacy of teaching and learning. MCC's 50th Anniversary web pages will be updated periodically, and we encourage you to check back often for new content that traces the dramatic history and growth of your community college, Mesa Community College.

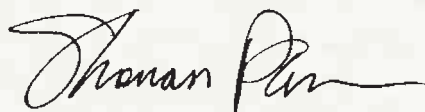
Speaking of MCC's legacy, one of the first items on our timeline to the next 50 years is happening as I write this message. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association will send an accreditation team to MCC in the spring, our first comprehensive visit by the Higher Learning Commission since we earned the 10-year maximum continued accreditation in 2005. We have been working diligently to prepare for their visit for more than a year.

In the fall of 2010, the Higher Learning Commission invited Mesa Community College to join a cohort of colleges and universities helping to develop and pilot a new accreditation process. This new process, called Pathways, has two focuses: Assurance and Improvement. The accreditation assurance process asks a college to submit evidence of its effectiveness and responsibility. The improvement process tasks institutions to develop an ambitious and meaningful Quality Initiative, as evidence of the institution's commitment to continuous improvement.

We have submitted to the Higher Learning Commission our final report of the Quality Initiative — Informed Improvement. We are now in the final stages of compiling data, writing narratives, and soliciting input for the self-review portion of the accreditation process. By the time the HLC/NCA team reaches our campuses for their visit in early March, 2015, we will be ready to demonstrate our compliance with the criteria for accreditation and our commitment to high-quality teaching and learning for our students and the communities we serve in the southeast valley.

For sure, there will be many more stories of success for MCC in the next 50 years — and more challenges. But as we have proven for the last five decades, the ties that bind us all together in the MCC family are strong, each student success another strand in the fabric of community we have built together with our constituency. Along this continuum of achievement from the past to the future there are more chapters waiting to be written in the continuing legacy of educational excellence that is Mesa Community College.

Sincerely,



Shouan Pan, Ph.D.
MCC President

MCC's Presidents



John Riggs
1963 - 1974



Helena Howe
1974 - 1978



Theo J. Heap
1978 - 1984



Wallace A. Simpson
1984 - 1988



Larry K. Christiansen
1988 - 2007



Shouan Pan
2008 - Present

– Celebrating –

50 Years

Visit mesacc.edu/50 to view the full timeline

1963

EXPANDING FORWARD

Phoenix College – Mesa Extension

Mesa operated as an extension campus of Phoenix College



1963

The First Semester

Registering for the future

330 students registered for classes the first semester

1964

WELCOME THE HOKAMS

MCC athletics begins

Mesa students voted Hokams as the nickname for their athletic teams



1966

A GRAND OPENING

MCC's Southern & Dobson Campus officially opens

The new campus houses the student center, the science building, the maintenance building and 26 portable classrooms



1966

Rainy Day Orientation

Delayed but not deterred

Delayed for three days, classes began with a record enrollment of 2,053



1968

GOING THE DISTANCE

Track and field shine

MCC men's outdoor track and field won the national championship in 1968 and 1969. MCC track and field has produced more than 127 All-Americans



1970s

A CHAMPIONSHIP DECADE

National champions 13 times in seven sports

Baseball – 1970, 1971, 1972

Men's Tennis – 1972

Men's Indoor Track & Field – 1974

Men's Outdoor Track & Field –

1970, 1973, 1974, 1976

Women's Outdoor Track & Field – 1979

Football – 1973, 1975

Volleyball – 1977



1974

SWITCHING IT UP

MCC's mascot changes from Hokam to Thunderbird



1978

A PROPER VENUE

Theatre Outback opened in 1978



ON APRIL 12TH, 1965 THE MARICOPA JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD NAMED MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS SEPARATE INSTITUTIONS FROM PHOENIX COLLEGE.

1980

STELLAR STRIDES

Champions once more

Men's Outdoor Track and Field won the national championship



1985

FULL STEAM AHEAD

MCC's education in demand

Chandler-Gilbert Education Center began its first year of operation as an extension of Mesa Community College



1987

A DEAN'S PROUD MOMENT

Recognizing one of MCC's greatest

Jinnett B. Kirk, MCC's first Dean of Students, was honored with the Don Carlos Humanitarian Award



1982

A healthy addition

Teamwork proves vital

Health Improvement Center built by MCC coaches and employees on evenings and weekends without tax or government dollars



1986

THE LEGACY OF THEO HEAP

In honor of MCC's past

The MCC east gymnasium was named after Theo Heap, former president, athletic director and coach, during Dedication Ceremonies on December 19



1989

A Silver Jubilee

MCC celebrates 25th anniversary

T-Bird Corner at Southern and Dobson received a facelift for the 25th anniversary. The stained glass Thunderbird was a gift from the 1978 Evening Student Government Association



1990

BIG TIME

Celebrating the Alumni Clock Tower dedication



1995

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Commission on Excellence in Education included 530 business leaders, government officials and Arizona residents

1997

COMING UP ROSES

Opened through a partnership with the Mesa East Valley Rose Society, MCC houses the largest public rose garden in the Southwest



1999

HONORING

WESTON LETTER

MCC hosts its first Annual Water Safety Day



2000

THE BEGINNING OF RED MOUNTAIN

A groundbreaking event

Phase I construction began for Red Mountain Campus



In 2001-02 MCC reached an annual enrollment of 44,000 students with classes across the East Valley.

2006

HIGHEST HONORS

MCC named to U.S. President's Higher Education Honor Roll

Highlights the role colleges play in solving community problems and placing students on a lifelong path of civic engagement



MCC RECOGNIZED BY THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION (CHEA) IN 1997 FOR INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS IN STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES.

2002

Fun with Science

First MCC Science Day on April 9th

Local schools invited to participate in science activities on campus



2004

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Presidential visit

President George W. Bush visited Mesa Community College to discuss his proposal for a \$250 million federal grant for job training programs in community colleges across the nation



Photo by Michael Cooper

2008

Rise of the Thunderbird

Football team debuts new logo

Newly redesigned Thunderbird athletic mascot logo



2010

RED MOUNTAIN CENTRAL COURTYARD CIENEGA

Native wetland illustrates how reclaimed water can be used to create a riparian habitat for native species and mitigate storm water runoff



2013

MOST DISTINGUISHED

MCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society ranks second in world

2014

THRILLING VICTORIES

Women's basketball and men's baseball claim national championships



2014

PERFORMING ARTS PLEDGE

Dr. Ruth Tan Lim pledged \$1 million for naming rights to the Performance Hall in the new Performing Arts Center at MCC



2015

STUDENTS SERVE 530,088 HOURS

MCC is one of only 16 community colleges nationwide to receive the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching



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

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

General MCC events: mesacc.edu/calendars

Athletics: athletics.mesacc.edu

Performing Arts: purplepass.com/#u20576/Mesa_Community_College.html

- SOUTHERN & DOBSON CAMPUS
- RED MOUNTAIN CAMPUS

February 18, 7 p.m.
Honors Forum Lecture Series
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Claudia Alexander
■ Performing Arts Center

March 6-7, 12-14
Beyond Therapy
■ Theatre

March 6, 6-10 p.m.
Astronomy Nights
Planetarium shows every half hour
■ Physical Science Building

April 3, 6 - 10 p.m.
Astronomy Nights
Planetarium shows every half hour
■ Southwest Physical Science Building

April 2, 4, 9, 11
Thoroughly Modern Millie
■ Performing Arts Center

April 8, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Spring Career and Job Fair
■ Location - TBD

April 13-24
Student Art Show
■ Location - TBD

April 16-17, 7:30 p.m.
Spring Dance Production
■ Performing Arts Center

April 18, 6:30 a.m.
Thunderbird Trail Bike Rally
■ Southern and Dobson Campus to
■ Red Mountain Campus

May 1-2, 7-9
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
■ Theatre

May 1, 7:30 p.m.
Broadway Bound
■ Performing Arts Center

May 1, 6 - 10 p.m.
Astronomy Nights
Planetarium shows every half hour
■ Southwest Physical Science Building

May 8, 7 p.m.
Dance Scholarship Showcase
■ Heap Gymnasium East

— SAVE THE DATE —

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2015

It's our birthday and we want you to celebrate with us!

Visit us online to learn more at mesacc.edu/50/events or join our email list today by completing the form at mesacc.edu/alumni-update

