

Alumna Courtney Waxman Discovers Passion for Animal Emergency Care at MCC

After graduating from Mesa Community College with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Veterinary Technology/Animal Health in 2008, Tempe resident Courtney Waxman has found a great deal of success as a specialist in emergency and critical care as well as a speaker and representative for Valley veterinarians.



Waxman first found out about the MCC Veterinary Technology Program when a career advisor visited her class at Red Mountain High School. At that point, she was interested in becoming a veterinarian.

"I learned that veterinary medicine is a competitive field and there is often a waiting list for vet schools," Waxman said. "I was looking for a career path to help get me started and the MCC Veterinary Technology Program made the most sense. I entered it as a starting point, but after I began working in the field, I realized I no longer wanted to be a veterinarian."

Instead, her true calling became apparent while working at an externship for a veterinary clinic in Gilbert. She discovered she loved emergency and critical care medicine.

Waxman became a Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT) in 2009 following graduation from MCC, then went on to earn a Bachelor of Applied Science in Operations Management Technology in 2010. In 2017, she earned additional certification as a Veterinary Technician Specialist in

Emergency and Critical Care (VTS ECC).

Courtney has spent the past 12 years working in emergency medicine, and currently practices at VetMed Emergency and Specialty Hospital in Phoenix. She focuses on emergency and critical care with special interests in mechanical ventilation, environmental hazards, CPR, critical nursing, and technician training.

Waxman began a speaking career in 2016 by presenting technician case reports at nationally recognized veterinary conferences. She has since scheduled speaking engagements at national and international veterinary conferences for 2018 and 2019. She also lectures locally to veterinary practices, veterinary students and the public about emergency and critical care.

Waxman shares her knowledge and experience through her published work in "Today's Veterinary Nurse Journal", the official journal of the the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) as well as the "NAVTA Journal", a bi-monthly publication from the National Association of Veterinary

Technicians in America designed for continued education.

In 2018 Waxman received a nomination from the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) for Veterinary Technician of the Year.

When speaking on behalf of veterinary medicine professionals, Waxman advises animal owners to place confidence in their veterinary staff.

"Trust your veterinarian and support staff," Waxman said. "They are always working in the best interest of the patient. Our focus is always patient care."

For those wanting to pursue a career as a veterinary technician?

"I've always been interested and have a great passion for the veterinary field," Waxman said. "I encourage anyone with an interest in science, animals and technology to pursue the field."

For more information about the Veterinary Technology Program at MCC, visit <https://www.mesacc.edu/programs/veterinary-technology>.



Greetings,

As Mesa Community College's new president, I am reaching out to express my enthusiasm for taking the helm of your alma mater, which has been recognized by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program as one of the Top 150 Community Colleges in the nation. In my leadership role, I am eager to engage in the important issues of the East Valley, one of the fastest growing, innovative areas in the country.

MCC's longstanding commitment to student success, excellence in teaching, and service to the community forms a responsive foundation for the new models of educational collaboration that are vital to meet the rapidly evolving challenges we face as an institution.

While we transform the excellent education that has always been a hallmark of MCC, we are committed to keeping MCC the ideal place to start college and transfer to a university by keeping our tuition affordable, tutoring and other vital services free, quality faculty engaged in student success, and offering relevant classes online and at the times convenient for working adults.

The more than half-a-century of respect and support between the college and our business, government, industry and social service partners was built on MCC's acknowledged responsibility to respond to community needs. Contributing educated professionals to the workforce with the skills and credentials business and industry are telling us they require is one of the many ways we fulfill our longstanding promise of success to our students and demonstrate our value to the community.

Please know how much we value and appreciate your continuing engagement with MCC. You stand as role models for your achievements in life as well as your service to this college. At our annual MCC Hall of Fame event, I look forward to meeting you and hearing your tales of being a Thunderbird.

Warm regards,

Dr. Rich Haney

President
Mesa Community College

Karina Aguilar Credits MCC for Workforce Preparation

As Mesa Community College graduate Karina Aguilar begins her new job at Aira, a company that provides augmented reality assistance services through remote and smart glasses technology to blind and visually impaired clients, she remembers the support she received at MCC that motivated her to succeed in her professional and academic goals.

"The most important skills I gained from Mesa Community College came from connecting with many wonderful professors, advisers, and supervisors," Aguilar said. "Even when I had days where I knew I wasn't putting my best effort in, they still advised me in the best way possible, and motivated me to become self-disciplined and hardworking. Everyone clearly cared about my goals and how I could achieve them, and this personal touch will always remain with me."

Aguilar graduated from MCC in May of 2015 with associate's degrees in science, arts, and general studies. The grants and awards she received included the NASA NCAS Community College Aerospace Scholarship, the Malathai Rajagopal and Narain Kaur Sheoran Scholarship, the Phi Theta Kappa Oberndorf

Lifeline to Completion Scholarship, the Ryan Travis Spude Memorial Chemistry Scholarship, the Ray Cattani Memorial Scholarship Endowment, and the Phi Theta Kappa Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship.

After graduating from MCC, she transferred to UC San Diego and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in general biology. She received the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholarship, the CAMP Research Assistant Scholarship Award, the UCSD IME-BECAS Summer Research Scholarship, and the Diana C. Miles Scholarship.

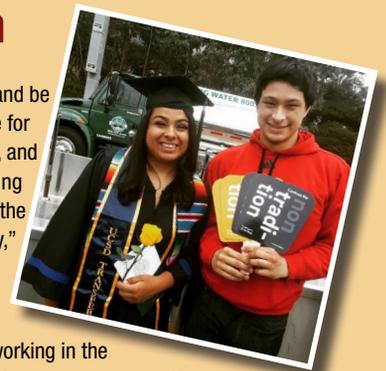
Aguilar said she loves the fields of biotechnology and medicine because of the wide range of independence and autonomy provided to individuals through these fields. She likes assisting people as they enhance their everyday experience through technology.

"Every day looks different at Aira, and many of the Explorers utilize our technology for a wide range of tasks, which have included taking pictures of their guide dogs and children, helping them navigate to a

coffee shop and be outside alone for the first time, and even describing fireworks on the Fourth of July," Aguilar said.

She plans to continue working in the biotech industry and pursuing professional or graduate school in the future. "Every day I change my mind about what I want to do with my life, but I really only have the opportunity to explore myself so much through the help of others," she said.

"My accomplishments aren't really my own but a culmination of all of the wonderful support I've had in my life, and I'll forever be grateful to Mesa Community College for preparing me for my professional and academic goals."





October 27, 2018

Football Game

Mesa Community College **vs.** Glendale Community College

MCC Southern and Dobson Campus

MCC Thunderbirds **vs.** Glendale Gauchos

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: MCC Southern/Dobson Campus, 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa, AZ
John D. Riggs Stadium (Rain or shine)

Ticket prices:

\$5 - general public

\$3 - seniors, students from other institutions with school ID, children age 12+

Free - MCC students with school ID, MCC alums with alumni card, and children under the age of 12.

- ★ ***Halftime performances by Boom! Percussion entertainment, MCC's cheerleaders, Spring 2018 Student Athlete Academic Awards, and the City of Mesa Youth Sports***
- ★ ***Yard games with prizes hosted by MCC Student Clubs***
- ★ ***Food available to purchase from Burgers Amore foodtruck***

Check out MCC's online merchandise store at

http://www.mesatbirdssportsteamshop.com/mesa_community_college_thunderbirds.

Red Out! Wear your MCC red as you cheer the T-Birds to victory against Glendale Community College.

Visit athletics.mesacc.edu/football for current team stats.

Request an alumni card online at: <https://www.mesacc.edu/alumni/membership/request-your-alumni-card>



MCC Alumnus Finds Dream Job as a Self-Driving Vehicle Safety Specialist

Shelby Prockish always wanted to work for Google, but he never dreamed it would be as a self-driving vehicle safety specialist. He loves the fact that he's part of a select group that is working to make transportation easier, more environmentally friendly and helpful to the elderly and blind population.

"Giving someone that freedom will be so cool," Prockish said. "You could wake up, get breakfast, order your self-driving car to pick you up, hop in the back and eat breakfast with no worry and no stress. It's coming and it's really exciting."

Prockish was recruited by Uber while he was attending Arizona State University, working toward his bachelor's degree. After gaining experience with Uber, he moved on to Waymo, a subsidiary of Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc.

He said it's hard to predict the future of these cars, so much has been done over the past few years, but he wants to help make it better.

"All this just fell into my lap," Prockish said. "When the recruiter contacted me, I thought it was a joke. But Uber picked me up and flew me to Pittsburgh for training."

"I'm a big nerd about technology anyway, and when I started this, I was like a kid in a candy store. I never intended to be a self-driving car expert, but I love it."

Prockish graduated with honors from Mesa Community College in 2014 with an Associate in Arts degree. While at MCC he participated in the Red Mountain Campus' Events Planning Council, the AmeriCorps Service Program and LeaderShape. He was also a member of MCC's honors psychology society Psi Beta.

He said his experience with all the MCC professors and the people he met through LeaderShape, a nationally recognized program that builds leadership skills, has helped him in his career.

"I can pull from all that interaction, experience and structure and fit it into a business setting," Prockish said. "Patience is the key aspect I learned from LeaderShape. Things are always changing. Life is chaos and you have to have patience to go with the flow and make the best of everything."

He graduated in May 2018 from ASU with a bachelor's degree in sociology. He plans to work at Waymo as long as he can and eventually pursue his master's degree after taking a breather from going to school for the last eight years.



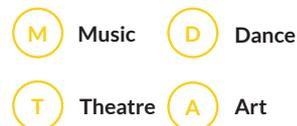
"I tell everyone to just keep pushing," Prockish said. "Times get rough and no one but you knows what you're going through. Keep pushing and eventually you'll get there and it's inspiring."



Immerse yourself in
the Arts at MCC

mesacc.edu/arts

Enjoy music, dance, theatre and art in MCC's three exceptional artistic facilities. The Performing Arts Center is a stunning, state-of-the-art venue presenting musicals, dance, jazz, symphonies and more. The MCC Theatre is an intimate space for drama, comedy and film. The Art Gallery, hosting rising and master artists, is a transformative space embracing the multidisciplinary nature of today's visual culture. Start experiencing the Arts at MCC today!



Learn more about the Arts. Browse events and exhibits. Buy tickets.

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When Merri Stafford was ready to make a career change in 2011, she explored MCC's welding classes.

"I've always liked to work with my hands, but I haven't had the opportunity until now," said Merri, 37. "Not only did MCC have the biggest and best welding department out there, but my folks attend MCC and have always been pro-community college, for the price and for professors who care."



MCC is Family Tradition for Welding Graduate

Her parents, Larry and Kathy Stafford, graduated from MCC in 1967 as members of MCC's second graduating class. At that time, Mesa operated as an extension campus of Phoenix College on Main Street in Mesa. The Staffords remember attending classes there and in various places around Mesa while the Southern and Dobson campus was being built. Larry had an electronics class at a nearby mortuary. Their commencement was held at Rendezvous Park in Mesa.

"We always encouraged our kids to begin their education at a community college," Kathy said. "We loved MCC. The teachers were more accessible and it's a good first step into college. Once you earn that associate's degree, they can't take that away."

Kathy remembers the college's dirt parking lot at Southern and Dobson, often causing her to attend classes in muddy shoes.

"It rained a lot that winter," Kathy said. "One time when I was driving my dad's old Buick, I lost the muffler in the parking lot and went back and found I had run over it in the mud."

Kathy said it felt classy when all the classes moved to the Southern and Dobson Campus. After graduating with their associate's degrees, Kathy and Larry went on to attend Arizona State University. Kathy graduated with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and Larry took electronics classes.

Fast forward to 2012, daughter Merri received a certificate in welding from MCC and is now AWS (American Welding Society), GTAW (gas tungsten arc welding) and GMAW (gas metal arc welding) certified. She recently accepted a TIG welder position with Sytech in Spokane, Washington.

"I enjoyed learning a trade and having teachers who wanted you to succeed, as opposed to just punching a clock," Merri said. "I liked that there were professors who are still working in the industry because they provided me with information on what employers are looking for and prepared me for the job market."

While at MCC, Merri was invited by welding faculty Robert Holmes to assist in creating a new campus sculpture by artist and MCC alumnus Geoff Coppola. The sculpture, named AllisOneenOsilla, symbolizes the unity and dedication of students and educators to innovation and creativity in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM).

Merri said it was fun to be involved in the sculpture, which is composed of 2,600 ceramic blocks and weighs 1.1 tons.

"I like doing artistic work," Merri said. "I'm not artistic, but this allows me to be."

Her parents are proud of her work.

"When we graduated, I never thought we'd have a daughter who would be part of the creation of a permanent fixture on campus."

The Stafford family continues to return to MCC for further education in various fields. After completing her welding classes, Merri returned to MCC and earned a certificate in AutoCAD (a design tool used primarily by engineers and architects) in 2016.

Larry, who has always been a hobby welder, also recently returned to MCC.

"Merri enjoyed her welding classes so much, I decided to go take a couple classes," Larry said, chuckling.



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Join us at Mesa Community College's (MCC) fourth annual Hall of Fame event. The MCC Hall of Fame honors alumni, community members, and MCC employees whose personal and professional accomplishments and positive contributions to the college and community set them apart.

Thursday, November 1, 2018

6:00 p.m. - Hors d'oeuvres Reception MCC Art Gallery Patio

7:00 p.m. - Program MCC Theatre

Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa, AZ 85202

Free and Open to the Public

RSVP kindly requested: mesacc.edu/alumni/hall-fame/2018-hall-fame