

# Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association

PAC Opens in October	1
Bank VC credits MCC	3
Alumna connects people and technology	4
MCC 50th Anniversary	4
Alumni in the News	5
Events Calendar	6



## Performing Arts Center opens in October

### State-of-the-art venue features music and dance performances

Mesa Community College will host two events in celebration of the completion of its new 462-seat Performing Arts Center. Utilizing a vacant Harkins theatre, the PAC exemplifies adaptive reuse and expansion of existing space.

MCC's talented students will provide a sneak preview of music, dance, and musical theatre that will regularly showcase in this exciting state-of-the-art-venue. Students and faculty will lead guided tours which will include behind the scenes areas such as performance classrooms, music practice rooms, and the scene shop, in addition to the main stage.

***"We are excited to be able to open our doors to our community to showcase the talents of our vocal, instrumental, and dance students in this long-awaited world-class venue,"***

said Sue Anne Lucius, Chair of MCC's Music Department.

The PAC's inaugural season will officially kick off Oct. 30 and 31st with the MCC's fall dance production, *Who Dunnit?*, followed by the retro musical *Hairspray*, Nov. 13-22.

MCC's commitment to providing affordable arts and entertainment to the community couples the PAC shows with performances in the college's newly remodeled MCC Theatre. The Theatre's fall season launches with the family favorite *Rumpelstiltskin*, showing October 10 - 11 and 16 -18.

Additional information about the Performing Arts Center and the MCC Theatre may be found online at [mesacc.edu/pac](http://mesacc.edu/pac) and [mesacc.edu/theatre-shows](http://mesacc.edu/theatre-shows) respectively.

## MORE IN THIS ISSUE



Deborah Bateman

3



MCC's 50th Anniversary

4

*continued on Page 2*

# MCC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

## OCTOBER 24 – PAC GRAND OPENING

4:00-4:45 p.m. – Program and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

5:00-6:00 p.m. – Music, Dance, and Musical Theatre

6:00-7:00 p.m. – Appetizers, Refreshments, and Tours

RSVP required. To reserve your complimentary tickets visit [tinyurl.com/pacopen](http://tinyurl.com/pacopen)

## OCTOBER 25 –PAC OPEN HOUSE

No reservations required

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tours, Entertainment, and Refreshments

*The new PAC will showcase a variety of musical theatre, dance, band, orchestra, choir, and performing ensembles within a vibrant venue of lights and technological magic.*



*The Performing Arts Center (PAC) is a 462-seat theater and state-of-the-art educational and entertainment venue.*



*The north masonry wall is folded along an ascending diagonal line derived from the opening clarinet glissando of “Rhapsody in Blue” by George Gershwin.*



*The remaining new and existing exterior walls are a canvas for a composition of salvaged movie seat stanchions that will cast dynamic shadows with the passing sunlight.*



**When Deborah Bateman attended Mesa Community College, two classes ended up being what she calls “the underpinning foundation of my life.”**

“I became very involved in business classes at the time, and competed in state and national contests as a member of DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America),” Deborah said. “Communications and Speech classes ended up being really formative for me, especially the speaking aspect, and that has really carried me through my life. Those two classes gave me an enormous amount of confidence.”

A 1971 graduate of MCC with an Associate of Arts degree in Business, Deborah is now Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for National Bank of Arizona. A 43-year career in the

*continued on Page 3*



# Bank VC Credits MCC for Career Path

banking industry unfolded after she left MCC.

She started with Valley National Bank as a teller, and worked her way up to management and executive positions. After Valley bank was acquired by Bank 1—which was subsequently acquired by Chase Bank—Deborah opened her own consulting business for banking institutions. She helped create 26 community banks in the southwest and became a passionate advocate for community involvement and “finding your own voice” through speaking engagements, the book she co-authored (*Succeeding Through Doubt, Fear, and Crisis*), and her web site, which offers mentoring, learning journeys throughout the world, and speaking opportunities ([www.deborahbateman.com](http://www.deborahbateman.com)).

Community, as you might have guessed, is her passion.

***“When I was at MCC, the leaders of our communities were bankers, they were the ones visible and making things happen because of their involvement in economic development,”***

Deborah said. “It was about relationships and community engagement and making a difference in the community.”

“I do want to change the world,” Deborah laughed. “I saw the ability to work for a bank as being a way to have

an impact on my own community.”

A graduate of Mesa Westwood High School, Deborah is based in Phoenix but has worked in Chicago and New York during her career. She currently serves on seven non-profit boards of directors, including the Phoenix Symphony, Phoenix Suns Charities, the Arizona Council for Economic Education, the Florence Crittenden Foundation and O'Connor House.

She is also involved in volunteerism and is currently chairing four charitable events over the next 12 months for Big Brothers Big Sisters, the American Heart Association, and the Florence Crittenden Foundation, one of the oldest non-profits in Arizona.

Deborah has been honored with numerous awards and recognition for her commitment to community involvement, including honors from the Girl Scouts of America, the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the YWCA Tribute to Women.

Her career arc of success began in those business classes at MCC. Her advisor at MCC, Louis Giallonardo, was a business professor and DECA advisor, and they became lifelong friends. In the early 1990's, she invited Louis to join her when MCC honored Deborah and other alumni at a campus recognition event. Deborah is also an advocate for community colleges, and attainment of an AA degree at MCC is prominent in her on line and printed bios. Something

Giallonardo said at the recognition event “resonated” with her, she said.

“He said being a professor, these are the rewards; when 20 years later, someone like me comes back, and it makes everything they've done all worthwhile.”

Deborah has specialty certificates of education from the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington, and Darden's Leadership Development Program at the University of Virginia. But she is just as proud of her AA degree from MCC.

“There are so many reasons to embrace a community college education, more so in today's environment,” she said. “A lot of people at age 18 don't know what they want to be, and the community college is relationship-oriented, which helps you discover who you are.”

“I always advocate for a four-year degree, but it's not necessarily the recipe for all people,” Deborah concluded. “The thing about an associate's degree is that you always have it, and sometimes when you take a different tack you wouldn't necessarily end up with a degree, just a lot of class hours.”

***“A community college degree is an honorable choice, and I'm very proud of my community college education at MCC.”***



## Alumna's Hospice IT Business Connects People and Technology

Mesa Community College alumna Jacy Smith, class of 2008, works hard to help people “bridge the gap” when it comes to technology. Her business, ReFresh IT, assists business owners in understanding what they need and helps implement a specific plan to accomplish their goals.

Jacy began her career in IT at MCC in 2006 when she took web design and art classes at the Southern and Dobson campus. She said she had always been interested in design and MCC offered what she wanted.

During her last semester, MCC instructor Brenda Newhouse invited the director of design at the *Arizona Republic* to speak in Jacy's art marketing class.

***“I ended up as an intern at the Republic for two years,” Jacy said. “I wouldn’t have had that chance without the connection I made at MCC.”***

She continued her education at Arizona State University and was one of the first students to earn a bachelor's degree from ASU's new program, Science,

Technology and Society. The program prepares professionals focused on the interaction of science and technology with human systems.

After graduation, Jacy worked in IT for a couple of different companies, including a hospice agency. There, she discovered that she wanted to stay in the medical field and assist businesses to improve the level of patient care as well as meet their IT needs.

Jacy started her business in 2013 with a focus on Hospice IT Consulting. She and her business partner, Burt Cigler, whom she met when she attended MCC, assist hospices as they make the difficult switch from paper records to electronic medical records. This is especially important as Medicare will start penalizing practices without electronic medical records software in 2016. Their assistance allows care providers to continue focusing on patient care during the transition. Additionally, ReFresh IT helps hospices and other small business with any

decisions relating to technology.

Jacy finds the work of setting up systems and training employees very satisfying.

“The biggest thing for me is that I’m still interested in medicine from an outside perspective,” Jacy said. “I’m good at being right at the intersection of medicine and technology. Nurses sometimes find computers frustrating, but I tell them it is a useful tool, much like a stethoscope or other medical equipment.”

She said the business is doing better than they expected and they often travel around the country on consulting jobs for a variety of businesses.

“We’d like to grow and add more consultants to our staff,” Jacy said. “I think it’s an important service we offer. Business owners often don’t understand what they need and we can bring bring clarity and simplicity to the decision-making process.”

## MCC 50th Anniversary: 2015

MCC turns 50 next year! Check the MCC 50th Anniversary website in January for event information and interesting facts about MCC's proud past. We hope that you participate in the celebration that occurs throughout 2015. Thank you to the alumni advisory board and other volunteers who have provided input on our anniversary plans.



# Alumni in the News

At MCC, we never tire of hearing about the pursuits and successes of our alumni. Below is a compilation of alumni who have been in the news over the past few months. If you or a fellow alum is featured in the news, we'd like to know. Send the information to [marcy.snitzer@mesacc.edu](mailto:marcy.snitzer@mesacc.edu). For links to the articles listed below, visit our online newsletter at <http://www.mesacc.edu/alumni/newsletters/fall-2014>.

## Display of Determination: Graduate Face Obstacles on Way to Degree

Marlynn Radford-Brown is graduating from Arizona State University with a degree in construction management. A little more than five years ago, she was a single parent with a second child on the way when she was laid off from her job, and her mother had recently passed away.

*ASU News, May 15, 2014*

## Baseball Pipeline Flows From Las Vegas to Mesa, AZ

Story from Las Vegas publication about eight local Vegas kids who played baseball at Mesa Community College this season. All eight were major contributors to the Thunderbirds' success, and the T-Birds had a lot of success.

*Las Vegas Review-Journal, June 11, 2014*

## One year in, tribes' CEO looks back

In 2013, Jake Suppah and his family had a comfortable life in Mesa, Ariz., where he had been the accounting manager for the Fort McDowell Casino for the previous decade. When he got a call from his brother-in-law, letting him know that he was nominated for secretary-treasurer, which is essentially the chief executive officer job for the tribes, he embraced the challenge.

*The Madras Pioneer, June 18, 2014*

## Work Stories: Arick Dombrowski and a Mortician's Outlook on Life

Arick Dombrowski is a 34-year-old funeral director at Johnson's Mortuary in Yuma. Dombrowski is a native of Somerton, Arizona and attended Yuma's Cibola High School before going on to get his mortuary degree at Mesa Community College. In this installment of Arizona Edition's Work Stories, Arick talks about his profession and the outlook it puts on life, as well as the most difficult case he has ever handled.

*Colorado River Public Media, KAWC, June 25, 2014*

## Gearhead2, The story of MCC Welding Grad Nyki Robinette

Fueled by her passion for vintage cars, Nyki Robinette is learning to repair and fix new and old hot rods, with her daughter! Seeing the sparks fly, Nyki was trained in the welding program at MCC and now works at Big J Seamless, a mechanical contracting company. From welding pipes at work to welding a 41 Cadillac in her home garage, Nyki's thirst to learn more will take her to the top.

*Cox 7 LaunchPoint video, Aired July 1, 2014*

## MCC Mortuary Science Program Helps Graduates Continue Family Business

Three MCC students graduating with Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees in Mortuary Science will be taking over local family businesses.

*Funeral Home and Crematory News, July 10, 2014*

## Mesa Community College Successfully Trains Next Generation in Advanced Manufacturing with Aid of Tool U-SME

Alumnus Matt Tellefsen is featured as a Student Success Story after securing a job in the aerospace manufacturing industry within a week of graduating with his Associated of Applied Science Degree in Machining and Product Development.

*ToolingU/ SME website, August, 2014 newsletter*



## VIP LIST

### Sign up for the alumni email list today!

Would you like to hear from MCC more often and receive invitations to special activities like our 50th anniversary planning? Join our email list by completing the form at [www.mesacc.edu/alumni-update](http://www.mesacc.edu/alumni-update).



## Alumni Relations

1833 West Southern Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85202

Address Service Requested

NON-Profit.Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Phoenix, AZ  
Permit NO. 662

 [FACEBOOK.COM/MesaCC](https://www.facebook.com/MesaCC)

 [TWITTER.COM/MesaCC](https://twitter.com/MesaCC)

 [YOUTUBE.COM/MesaCC](https://www.youtube.com/MesaCC)

**MCC**  
Alumni Association  
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**

☎ 480.461.7792

✉ [marcy.snitzer@mesacc.edu](mailto:marcy.snitzer@mesacc.edu)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

**General MCC Events**  
[mesacc.edu/calendars](https://mesacc.edu/calendars)

**Athletics**  
[athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules](https://athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules)

- SOUTHERN & DOBSON CAMPUS
- RED MOUNTAIN CAMPUS

■ **October 15, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
and 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Empty Bowls  
Fundraiser for Paz de Cristo  
Mesquite Building

■ **Oct. 16-18**  
Rumpelstiltskin  
Theatre

■ **October 17, 7:00 p.m.**  
Desert Echoes Flute Project  
Performing Arts Center

■ **October 20, 7:00 p.m.**  
Band/Orchestra Performance  
Performing Arts Center

■ **October 24, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**  
Performing Arts Center  
Grand Opening  
Performing Arts Center

■ **October 25, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
Performing Arts Center  
Open House  
Performing Arts Center

■ **October 28, 3:00 p.m.**  
Whatever Happened To....Series  
“Whatever Happened to Teaching  
and Learning and Technology”  
SC Bldg., Room SC11E

■ **October 29, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
and 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Empty Bowls  
Fundraiser for Paz de Cristo  
Center Courtyard

■ **October 30, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
Fall Job Fair  
Event Tent

■ **October 30-31, 7:30 p.m.**  
Fall Dance Performances  
Performing Arts Center

■ **October 31, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**  
Halloween Extravaganza  
Courtyard

■ **November 1, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
Banner Children’s Go Kids!  
Festival  
Athletic Practice Fields

■ **November 3, 7:00 p.m.**  
Evening Lecture Series in  
Psychology  
Developing a Growth Mindset: No  
More Perfectionism!  
Elsner Library, Room 145

■ **November 7, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.**  
Astronomy Nights  
Physical Science Building

■ **November 7, 6:30 p.m.**  
Family Discovery Series  
Rehearsal & Performing Arts  
Center

■ **November 13-15, 21-22**  
Hairspray  
Performing Arts Center

■ **November 18, 2:00 p.m.**  
Band/Orchestra Performance  
Performing Arts Center

■ **November 18, 3:00 p.m.**  
Whatever Happened To....Series  
“Whatever Happened to MCC”  
SC Bldg., Room SC11E

■ **December 2, 2:00 p.m.**  
Band/Orchestra Performance  
Performing Arts Center

■ **December 3, 2:00 p.m.**  
Jazz Performance  
Performing Arts Center

■ **December 4, 2:30 p.m.**  
Chamber Ensemble Performance  
Performing Arts Center

■ **December 5, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.**  
Astronomy Nights  
Southwest Physical Science  
Building

■ **December 5-6, 11-13**  
Mother Hicks  
Theatre

■ **December 5, 6:30 p.m.**  
Family Discovery Series  
“Edible Landscaping: Thinking  
Outside the Citrus”  
Rehearsal & Performing Arts  
Center

■ **December 5, 7:30 p.m.**  
Broadway Bound  
Performing Arts Center

■ **December 9, 2:00 p.m.**  
Choir Concert  
Performing Arts Center

■ **December 10, 7:00 p.m.**  
Desert Echoes Flute Project  
Performing Arts Center

■ **December 12, 7:30 p.m.**  
Fall Dance Classes Showcase  
Heap Gym