

Transforming a light station into an “on ocean” technology center

MCC Alumnus Dave Schneider aspires to create mecca for research, science, and eco-tourism



Thirteen miles from shore and 120 feet above the water, Diamond Shoals Light Station (DSLS) soars above the Atlantic. The sound of wind and picturesque views envelop visitors.

It was not the serenity, however, that attracted MCC Alumnus and Zap Water Technology, Inc. President Dave Schneider to the decommissioned Coast Guard Light Station – it was the possibilities.

“I’ve already been approached by scientists who want to monitor bird and moth migration patterns, a group interested in doing sound testing, and a Special Forces unit regarding training exercises,” said Dave.

The adventure began in 2012 when Zap purchased the tower for \$20,000 through a government auction. Zap plans to use the station to enhance existing and develop new products in its ElectroChemical Activation (ECA) line of sustainable, non-toxic cleaning and sanitizing agents.

But that’s just the beginning. Dave is seeking partners with similar goals – those committed to clean water and sustainable power sources like wind, ocean, and solar. DSLS also offers great opportunities for product testing and development in a marine setting as well as a venue for scientists to conduct studies.

“This will be a unique, one-of-a-kind place to do some very important work in a very inspiring setting!” Dave said.

Recreation is also on the list. “We are hoping to be a stopping off point for many of the fishermen, sailors, boaters, divers, and kayakers that frequent this area,” Dave said. The sunrises, sunsets, sea life, and star gazing create an ethereal environment. “It’s almost a religious experience.”

continued on page 3



President's Message

Dear Friends of MCC,

As you may know, I was selected as the Interim President of MCC effective August 2, 2016, by the Chancellor of the Maricopa Community Colleges, Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick. I am honored to lead this great institution.

During my interim role, MCC will continue to move forward with several key strategic priorities. I'm confident that with the ongoing support and counsel of our city and community partners, the college will uphold its dedication to successfully serve our students and our community. Key priorities for the upcoming year include:

Guided Pathways to Success (GPS) - GPS is a framework that will help students identify their goals and needs, and chart clear routes to timely completion. Our goals in implementing GPS are to increase retention, decrease time to completion, lower educational costs for students, and improve student learning. GPS is a strategy that also incorporates MCC's four institutional student learning outcomes – Communication, Critical Thinking, Civic Engagement, and Cultural and Global Engagement. Initial implementation of GPS will occur during the 2017-18 academic year.

Red Mountain Success – This year we celebrate 15 years of serving the East Valley through our Red Mountain Campus. Demands have changed since the Red Mountain campus was first envisioned as part of the Maricopa County Community College District's 1994 bond package. We are realigning Red Mountain's priorities in response to current realities. Vice Provost Nora Reyes and the Red Mountain Team will be focusing on growth initiatives and creating action teams to address specific objectives that promote enrollment development and student success. A Red Mountain Community Advisory Board has been established with Councilmember David Luna serving as chair.

Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) – Currently Hispanics account for 23% of MCC's student enrollment, and data shows that the Latino population will continue to grow. Serving Latino students is about serving our community, and we will continue to enhance our efforts to engage the Latino community and advance the academic success of Latino students. One of the benefits of becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution is that resources put in place benefit all students. An MCC HSI Task Force was created last year and formed work teams focused on areas such as Early Outreach & College Access and Teaching & Learning Best Practices.

Strategic Partnerships and Alliances – I am committed to exploring new approaches for services we provide. Developing strategic partnerships and alliances with entities that can deliver economies of scale and outcomes that we alone cannot frees MCC faculty and staff to focus on our core mission, and better leverage our expertise, experience, and institutional knowledge.

Student success is MCC's highest priority. I am happy to report positive increases in core outcomes such as course level completion and graduation rates. We also are excited to have been recently recognized by Accredited Schools Online as one of the top online colleges in Arizona, and the Aspen Institute as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation.

The work ahead of us is challenging. It will require everyone working together for the common good. My team and I look forward to working with you; together, we can build a strong future for our community.

Sincerely,

Sasan Pouretezadi
MCC Interim President



Put into service in 1966, the U.S. Coast Guard used DSLS until 2001. In an area off North Carolina’s Outer Banks region, known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic due to the more than one thousand documented shipwrecks, the Coast Guard had on-site teams in place until 1979 when the light was automated and only needed occasional service. The light station was decommissioned in 2001 due to the widespread use of GPS technology and sat vacant until Zap’s purchase in 2012.

Although structurally sound, the station requires extensive restoration from the bottom staircase that provides boat access to the helicopter pad. Hoping to achieve the bulk of the work through partnerships and volunteers, the DSLS website lists a number of opportunities, both on land and on the ocean.

A tireless professional, in addition to pursuits related to DSLS and Zap, Dave is the Chief Financial Officer at St. Croix Promotions Retail, which provides promotional items and online stores to

businesses such as Best Buy, Medtronic, and Blue Cross Blue Shield. He received his associate’s degree from MCC in 1978 and transferred to ASU where he earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting to become a CPA.

“I was the first in my family to attend college,” said Dave. “I worked full time and attended school full time. MCC prepared me well and provided a good bridge to ASU. I would have gotten lost if I’d gone directly to ASU.”

The tie that binds his seemingly disparate professional pursuits together is sustainability. While not over zealous, Dave is committed to living a sustainable lifestyle, trying to have the least amount of impact on the environment as possible and reusing and recycling.

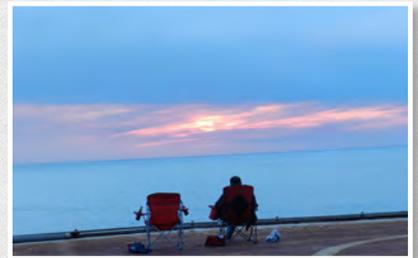
“In reality my CFO job is my chosen profession – it pays the bills,” Dave said. “Zap is my passion and Diamond Shoals is obviously another passion. It fits many of my ideals to reuse, and is just dam cool.”

To learn more, visit:

- [Diamond Shoals Light Station](http://www.diamondshoalslight.com/)
- [Zap Water Technology, Inc.](http://www.zapwatertechnology.com/)
- [St. Croix Promotions Retail](http://www.scpromo.com/index.php)

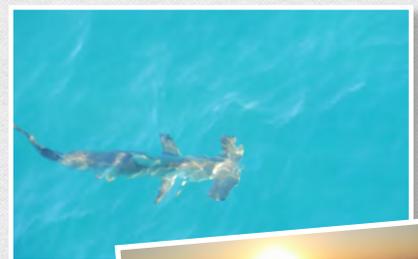
Diamond Shoals Light Station – Built to Last!

- Built on a “Texas Platform” originally developed for deep water oil drilling
- Erected in 50 feet of water
- Structural pylons more than 150 feet deep
- Lighthouse tower extends 120 feet above water
- 75’ x’ 75’ main helicopter platform



- More than 5,500 sq. ft. of living space includes 7 bedrooms, recreation room, galley and dining area, office, radio room, generator room, and more than 11 storage and utility rooms
- Bottom level is an exterior maintenance deck

Source: http://www.diamondshoalslight.com/?page_id=64



Immerse Yourself in the Arts at MCC 2016-17 Season Preview

Learn more about the Arts. Browse events. Reserve seats.



mesacc.edu/arts

Music

- Mesa Performing Jazz Ensemble (MPJE) Jazz Big Band
December 13, 2016; March 7, 2017
- Desert Echoes Flute Project
December 7, 2016; March 3, 2017;
May 5, 2017
- Community, Concert Band and Orchestra
December 6, 2016; February 28, 2017;
April 25, 2017
- The Jazz Ensemble Concert
March 8, 2017
- Choir Concert
October 18, 2016; March 9, 2017
- Combo Concert
October 27, 2016; December 1, 2016;
March 2, 2017; April 20, 2017
- She Loves Me
November 4 – 12, 2016,

Dance

- Fall Formal Dance Production
November 17 – 18, 2016
- Spring Formal Dance Production
April 20 – 21, 2017
- Spring Dance Scholarship Showcase
April 22, 2017

Theatre

- All in the Timing
October 7 – 15, 2016
- Good 'N' Plenty
December 2 – 10, 2016
- Of Mice and Men
April 21 – 29, 2017

Art Gallery

- Invitational Alumni Exhibition
October 24 – December 2, 2016
- Touching Strangers
January 30 – March 24, 2017
- Annual Juried Art Student Exhibition
April 24 – May 12, 2017

Interested in Events, News, and Attractions at MCC?

Visit us at www.mesacc.edu/events or follow us on social media

Specialty websites and calendars
www.mesacc.edu/arts and
www.mesacc.edu/athletics

Alumni in the News

Congratulations to alumnus **Pau Tonnesen**! The Tempe native competed in the Olympic Decathlon for Spain. See the Channel 12 News Coverage at www.mesacc.edu/alumni/newsletters/fall-2016.

To see a compilation of alumni newsmakers, visit www.mesacc.edu/alumni/newsletters/fall-2016.



Endangered species find refuge at MCC

Cienega provides space for study, research, observation

MCC's cienega became home to 285 endangered Gila Topminnow in the summer of 2016 through a collaboration with the Phoenix Zoo and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). They joined the numerous tadpoles of the protected Lowland Leopard frogs, which have bred successfully after being added to the cienega last year.



This isn't the first time endangered species have been released into the cienega. In 2014, 300 endangered, native desert pupfish were released by the AZGFD into a refuge pond in the cienega. Partners for that project included AZGFD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Phoenix Zoo.

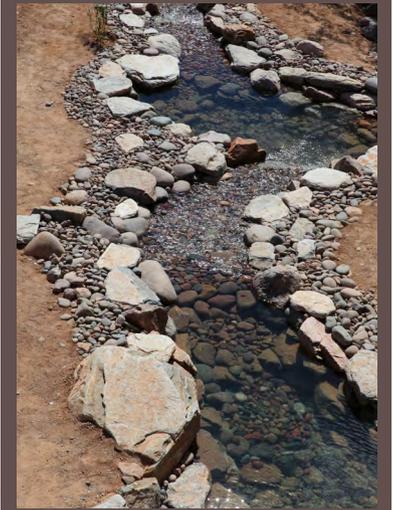
The cienega now includes two species of endangered fish, an endangered plant species, and several other species of protected reptiles and amphibians.

In addition to being an elite ecology experience, the endangered fish release allows students to interact with wildlife professionals and participate in activities that highlight careers in science.

"This new signage explains the importance and functions of cienegas, all of which can and will be incorporated into classroom curricula," said Andy Baldwin, MCC



Life Science Department Chair. "The wonderful thing about the cienega is that it also supports MCC's commitment to offering research experiences, the ability to collect data on rare habitats, and observe endangered plants and animals, all of which are rare opportunities for undergraduate students.



A cienega is a spring that is usually a wet, marshy area at the foot of a mountain, in a canyon, or on the edge of a grassland where groundwater bubbles to the surface. Often, a cienega does not drain into a stream, but evaporates, forming a small playa. Because evaporation usually causes the water to be alkaline, vegetation around a cienega commonly includes halophytes, including many unusual, rare, and endangered species of plants and animals.

*Source: Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cienega>



Recognitions for MCC Red Mountain

2014 Founders Conservation Award from the North American Native Plant Society

2015 Award of Excellence for a Commercial Water Feature from the Arizona Landscape Contractor's Association

2016 Certified Wildlife Habitat designation from the National Wildlife Federation



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

Alumni Relations
1833 West Southern Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85202
Address Service Requested

Interested in Events, News, and Attractions at MCC?

Visit us at www.mesacc.edu/events or follow us on social media
Specialty websites and calendars www.mesacc.edu/arts and www.mesacc.edu/athletics

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

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

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



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

MCC Hall of Fame

You're Invited

Thursday, November 3, 2016 Mesa Community College Theatre
6:00 p.m. - Hors d'oeuvres Reception 1833 W. Southern Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85202
7:00 p.m. - Program Free and Open to the Public - RSVP Requested
<http://tinyurl.com/MCCHallofFame>

2016 Honorees

Alumni Achievement Award

- **Bland Burchett**, Engineer, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD)
- **Timothy Dorn**, Chief of Police, Gilbert Police Department
- **John Giles**, Mayor, City of Mesa; Owner and Attorney, Giles and Dickson, P.C.
- **Emmet Ronan**, Retired Judge, Maricopa County Superior Court

Outstanding Athletes Award

- **Peter Fennell**, Tennis
- **Ken Phelps**, Baseball
- **Derek Price**, Football

Outstanding Coaches Award

- **Selmer Olson**, Track and Field
- **Penny Powell**, Tennis

Outstanding Teaching Award

- **Karen Hardin**, Ed.D., Faculty Emeritus, Counseling
- **Shereen Lerner**, Ph.D., Residential Faculty, Anthropology

Outstanding Staff Award

- **Matthew Ashcraft**, Dean, Institutional Analysis and Planning, MCC Alumnus
- **Sonia Filan**, Director, Institutional Advancement and Entrepreneurial Programs, MCC Alumna