



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL FINISHES 2ND IN NATION

Simply put, it was the greatest season in Mesa women's basketball history.

The Thunderbirds finished second in the nation in NJCAA Division II competition with a run through the national championship tournament, completed by an extremely young group which fashioned a final 27-7 record.

Seventh-year coach Kori Stevenson, and assistants Sam Stevens and Ben Nelson, had only three players returning from a year ago when they greeted their 2012-13 team in the fall. Although the 2011-12 squad had captured fifth place in the NJCAA event, it was heavily dominated by sophomores.

Stevenson, however, was still confident in her team's chances.

"I thought we could win the Region," she said, "But I never thought we could go this far."

En route to their outstanding national finish, the T-Birds did not lose a single game to Division II competition until the final loss to Louisburg (N.C.) in the NJCAA tournament. In fact, Mesa played 12 of its 34 contests against Division I teams and won half of those, including victories over some top-flight competition.



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Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association

Nutrition Alumna Starts Own Business

A life-long interest in health and food led Melissa Seil-Webb to MCC's Sustainable Food Systems program. A little more than a year after earning her certificate in that program, she has started her own business. She sells Iss's Magic Mixes, described as "oatmeal with a kick," at farmer's markets, on her website and at local health food stores.

She learned about creating more sustainable ways of how food is grown, purchased, prepared and consumed. "I'm glad I have my certification," Seil-Webb said. "For me, it was really pivotal to feel confident enough to be able to go forward and do what I'm doing now with my oatmeal company."

"Our products have really taken off," Seil-Webb said. "At our first farmer's market we sold out. I wasn't expecting that at all and wasn't expecting to have people run back to the booth with their friends to try it."



Melissa Seil-Webb Magic Mixes are designed to help lower blood pressure, among other benefits.

"Part of my internship that I did was me actually starting this company, which was perfect. Seil-Webb said MCC instructors were extremely helpful.

"Lori Zienkewicz, Maureen Zimmerman and Sue Thomas were super supportive," Seil-Webb said. "Lori gave me advice on how to protect my product...they taught me how to understand the farmer's market world... and Maureen even emailed me information about a new cottage law to make confectionary and non-hazardous goods in my home."

The mixes are designed to help lower high blood pressure, help regulate blood sugar and maintain a healthy weight. In addition to the oatmeal mixes, the company sells Maca Energy Bars. *Maca powder regulates metabolism, growth, attitude, energy levels, sexual development and a sense of well-being.*

Oh, and, not a minor point, they taste great as well! Seil-Webb originally set out to earn a degree as a registered dietician, but when she heard about MCC's Sustainable Food Systems program, she decided to enroll in conjunction with getting her pre-dietetic classes completed. The program provided her with a broad array of knowledge.

Seil-Webb said she feels fortunate she has been able to start slow and not go into debt, accumulating equipment in preparation for opening her own commercial kitchen. She is amazed by the success of her company.

"I am so grateful to these instructors for supporting me."

Iss's Magic Mix website: issmix.com/

MCC Sustainable Food Program: www.mesacc.edu/sustainable-food-systems.



Coconut Palm Sugar • Chia Seeds • Ground Flaxseed • Rolled Oats • Almond Meal • Himalayan Pink Salt • Ceylon Cinnamon

Summer 2013

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MCC Alumni Association
EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN
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MCC Now Offering ^{online} Degrees and Certificates

In March 2013 MCC received formal approval from its accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission, to begin offering online degrees and certificates. Prior to the approval, MCC offered online classes, but a student could not complete a degree exclusively online.

The college now offers more than 20 different degrees and certificates that can be taken completely online, providing students convenient and flexible options to advance their education.

"This is a significant milestone for MCC. Our focus on academic excellence, student success and student support in the virtual environment is paramount to helping students achieve their educational ambitions," stated Dr. Shouan Pan, President.

MCC offers more than 500 eLearning classes through internet, hybrid or web-enhanced delivery methods. For more information about the new online degree offerings at MCC please call 480-461-7700 or visit www.mesacc.edu/elearning.

Online Certificates and Degrees:

- Emergency Management or Response and Operations
- General Business or General Studies
- International Trade
- Judicial Studies
- Management
- Marketing
- Organizational Leadership and Management
- Project Management
- Retail Management
- Salesmanship
- Small Business and Small Business Start-Up

Construction Boom at Southern and Dobson Campus

PAC, Art Gallery, Student Center, and Enrollment Center to open in 2014

Check our progress by visiting www.mesacc.edu/campus-construction. You will see real time images and other updates. Goals for each project are:

- Performing Arts Center (PAC)** – Remodel and add onto the former Harkins Theater on Longmore Avenue to create a 460 seat venue for music, dance, and choir performances.
- Art Gallery** – Build a new gallery on the south side of campus to showcase student and faculty work and function as a learning lab.
- Kirk Student Center/Student Services Village** – Remodel the Student Center and five adjacent buildings that comprise the Student Services Village to improve student support services and retention. The buildings will then be connected with an air conditioned atrium.
- Enrollment Center** – Consolidate all enrollment services from multiple buildings into one building on the east side of campus, making it easier to enroll.



The dining area and coffee shop in the Kirk Student Center were remodeled in fall 2012.



MCC's Website Captures Bronze Paragon in National Competition

The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations award recognizes outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges. It is the only national competition of its kind that exclusively honors excellence among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges.

Student focus, simpler navigation and standardized look are among the site's top features.

Dr. Pan Receives International Excellence in Leadership Award

Congratulations to MCC President, Dr. Shouan Pan, on receiving the Paul A. Elsner International Excellence in Leadership Award.

The Chair Academy presented the award at its 22nd Annual Conference. The Chair Academy's mission focuses on designing and conducting leadership training and development programs to advance academic and administrative leadership.

The Paul A. Elsner Award is named after Dr. Paul A. Elsner, Chancellor Emeritus of the Maricopa County Community College District. Dr. Elsner is recognized internationally as an exemplary leader in higher education.

Read more about Dr. Pan at www.chairacademy.com/journals/Journal_19-1.pdf.



Sonia Filan, MCC's Director of Institutional Advancement, presented the award, describing Dr. Pan as a leader who came from humble beginnings and now demonstrates exemplary service in his current role.

Have You Taken a Class Lately?

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Continuing and Community Education offers something for everyone, from Computer Basics to Watercolor Fundamentals.

Visit www.mesacc.edu/community/continuing-community-education.



Charter members sought for PTK Alumni Chapter

An alumni chapter for MCC's Omicron Beta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa will be created this fall. The chapter is being created to provide fellowship and networking opportunities for members, support current PTK students, and raise funds to support the program and provide student scholarships.

Contact Duane Oakes at 480-461-7214 or duane.oakes@mesacc.edu today to become a charter member. The alumni chapter will be officially chartered with PTK International.

MCC PTK Chapter Ranks Second in Nation

MCC's Omicron Beta Chapter was named First Finalist for Most Distinguished Chapter at the 2013 Phi Theta Kappa Conference. The Most Distinguished Chapter is an international award and the highest honor given to a Phi Theta Kappa chapter. MCC ranks second out of 1,280 chapters worldwide.

"I'm amazed and proud of all our students and chapter as they receive this award," said Duane Oakes, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor and Faculty Director of MCC's Center for Service-Learning. "This recognizes their outstanding service to our college and the community.

Complete List of 2013 Awards:

- **First Finalist for Most Distinguished Chapter 2013**
- **Distinguished Theme Award for Honors in Action**
- **Distinguished Honors in Action Project**
- **Distinguished Chapter Officer Team (3 years running)**
- **Distinguished Chapter**
- **Recognized for raising the most funds for Relay for Life**



PTK's projects included teaching local students the importance of nutrition and promoting civic engagement and democracy.

Devin Oakes Awarded Prestigious Guistwhite Scholarship

Devin Oakes is one of twenty Phi Theta Kappa members nationwide selected as a 2013 Guistwhite Scholarship recipient. He will receive \$5,000 scholarship for baccalaureate studies and a commemorative medallion.



Guistwhite Scholars are chosen based on academic achievement, leadership accomplishment, and engagement in PTK programs.

Oakes, a Mesa resident, is transferring to Arizona State University to pursue a degree in Non-Profit Leadership and Management.

His other awards include the:

- President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award for 4000+ hours of service
- AmeriCorps Clinton Global Initiative University Scholarship
- Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Award

Two MCC students named Coca-Cola Gold Scholars Of the 8 million U.S. community college students, only 50 are honored as Gold Scholars*

Mirelle Wright and Devin Oakes (picture above) will each receive a \$1,500 scholarship. The awards are based on student scores on the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition. The program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and is administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

*www.aacc.nche.edu



Relay for Life Team Raises \$10,300

As MCC's Relay for Life team prepared for this spring's 2013 annual American Cancer Society event in East Mesa, they set a goal: to exceed last year's total of \$9,000 in funds raised.

For several months, volunteers held pre-event fundraisers and watched in anticipation as the donations poured in. On the day before the event, they were close to their goal, but not quite there. Soon, though, word came from relay organizer Ed Lipinski.

"They did it," Ed Lipinski reported. "They rocked the relay!"

More than 100 MCC students, faculty, staff and friends from both campuses worked 500 plus service hours to make it happen. They raised \$10,300, making them Top Individual Fundraiser at the event and placing them in the Top 5 Fundraising Teams.

The MCC team joined over 4 million people in more than 20 countries who take part in this global event and raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer.



We're excited when we see stories about MCC Alumni, so we've posted links to news coverage in our online version of Alumni & Friends.

To catch up on what your classmates are doing, visit: www.mesacc.edu/alumni/news-events.

We'd also like to know if you've been featured "In the News." If you have, please submit a Class Note through our online community at www.alumniconnections.com/mcc/.



Marketing Alum's Handbags Taking Off

Source: Know WP Carey (ASU)



MCC Grad Takes Her Thrifty Designs to the Big Apple

Source: Community College Times



Hands-On Oscar Role Joy for Dobson High Grad

Source: Arizona Republic



Rainmaker: Phoenix ISSA President Aaron Carpenter

Source: Know WP Carey (ASU)