

December 4, 2007

# the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

## New process impacts students' wallets and faculty syllabi: Students will owe money when purged or dropped after 100% refund date

Spring 2008 brings a business process change that aligns MCC business practices with other Maricopa colleges as part of the Maricopa Experience. This change impacts the entire MCC community – *particularly students*.

MCC, along with the other Maricopa Community Colleges, will charge tuition and fees when a student is dropped from classes after the 100% refund period (whether through the purge process for non-payment or instructor removal for failure to attend). Dates for 100% refund vary based on the length of the class and the date that it starts. Check page 367 of the College Catalog to determine refund dates ([http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/students/07\\_08\\_catalog/S7\\_mcccd\\_policies.pdf](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/students/07_08_catalog/S7_mcccd_policies.pdf)).

### How does this impact students?

Here are few scenarios. (The last day for 100% refund in the following scenarios is August 24.)

1. It is the first week of classes. An instructor has not seen a particular student all week who appears on the roster. The instructor's syllabus states that after 3 absences, the instructor may drop/withdraw the student from class. The timing of the faculty member's next action determines if the student with unpaid tuition and fees will incur a debt for the class or not.

IF the instructor submits an add/drop slip to the Records office **DURING** the 100% refund period (often times the first week of school).

- The student who has not paid will not be charged for that class. The student who has paid would be entitled to a refund.

IF the instructor submits an add/drop slip **AFTER** the 100% refund period;

- The student who has not paid will be charged for the class.
- The student who has paid is not entitled to a refund.

2. Student registers for class on Thursday of the add/drop

period and is assigned a tuition due date of the following Wednesday, which is past the 100% refund period. Student does not pay by the due date and is dropped from class through the purge process. The student will be charged for the class(es) because the withdraw, **in this case through the purge process**, is past the 100% refund period.

3. The student registers the week of add/drop and has a tuition deferment date of September 14 and does not pay on the 14th. The last day for 100% refund was August 24. The student is purged for non-payment and owes tuition because the deferment date was past the 100% refund period.

### Why is the business process changing?

The rationale for implementing the process goes beyond aligning MCC's practices with other Maricopa Colleges. The change:

- \* Provides fair practice for all students. Historically, students who followed the process of withdrawing after the refund period were charged tuition while students who were purged by the system for not paying incurred no debt. Essentially, students who were proactive and followed prescribed policy were penalized while their peers went debt free.

- \* Aligns with college and district policy regarding when a student receives 100% refund for tuition, class, and registration processing fees (See page 367 of MCC's 2007-08 College Catalog).

- \* Eliminates the practice of "holding" seats in class without paying tuition.

- \* Provides instructors with a better picture of their class enrollment.

### Inform our students!

Faculty are asked to review their syllabi to ensure that it reflects the policy stated in the 2007-08 College Catalog (page 367) and the new business process. The college is also attempting to inform students by using the note box on the class schedule/tuition invoice to give students a "heads up" about the change and by attaching a ½ page flyer to student tuition invoices. Students and employees can direct their questions to the Records Office.

## Emergency Notification Systems at MCC

Mesa Community College is continually seeking to improve its level of campus safety. Major milestones that reflect this continual improvement are listed below.

### Alertus Notification Beacons

Alertus is an all-hazards campus emergency alert system comprised of wall-mounted notification beacons to disseminate vital information. Alertus Notification beacons signal the public with sirens and strobes, and a large text display informs what the emergency is and how to respond. The information is delivered to the Alertus Notification Beacons directly by the MCC Public Safety Department using a reliable wireless communication technology developed at the University of Maryland. Alertus Notification beacons are typically mounted in high traffic areas, such as lobbies, by student service areas, and corridors. Notifications can be addressed to localized areas, buildings, and corridors. Installation of sixty Alertus System beacons at the MCC Southern and Dobson campus should be completed by the end of the calendar year.

### High Powered Emergency Speakers

IP speakers have recently been added throughout gathering spaces at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus that are not serviced by the traditional IP Telephony that you would find in an office or classroom. There are now high powered emergency speakers in the following areas:

- warning
- first floor library
- \* second floor library
- \* third floor library
- \* connector, by Cyber Cafe
- \* student union, by activities counter

**WARNING!**

- \* Grounds for Thought
- \* cafeteria
- \* Navajo room
- \* East gym
- \* West gym
- \* dance room
- \* men's locker room

**WARNING!**

These speakers are integrated into the ALL CAMPUS alert system (audio only) as well as alert systems for each building they are in. More will be added in areas such as outdoors near clock tower, women's locker room, and Red Mountain campus.

MCC ITS is also working on a new style of mass notification that incorporates both WARNING sounds, as well as audio. This particular method of alerting is one that can play repetitively until a trigger tells the system to stop. This is very effective for certain types of events, such as lock-down or all clear type messages.

### Rapid Police Response Training

The City of Mesa Police Department, at the request of MCC's Crisis Management Team, will provide a presentation on current trends on rapid police response to differing crisis scenarios that colleges have experienced followed by Q&A. The next sessions are December 12, 2007, 11:00 - 12:00 in the Library Reading Room and January 10, 2008 (time and location to be announced). MCC Public Safety and Mesa Police are planning joint training exercises to help insure that responses to campus emergencies are well coordinated.

Contact Steve Corich, Director of Public Safety, or Bill DeHaan, Director of Information Technology Services, for additional information.

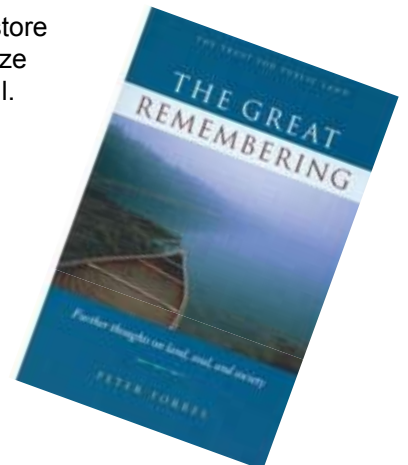
## OneBook MCC!

The Sustainability Faculty and Professional Learning Community (FPLC) is sponsoring a OneBook MCC literary selection for your reading pleasure! Look for book discussions early in the Spring 2008 semester.

The Great Remembering, by Peter Forbes, is an exploration of what land means to our culture. The author traces the roots of our disconnection from place and from meaningful stories about our lives. He discusses what he terms the "ethics of enough" - the growing trend to slow down and place the quality of our experiences over the quantity of our possessions. It is through preserving land and rebuilding the relationship between land and people, he argues, that

our culture can not only restore natural habitats, but revitalize human communities as well.

The book is now available at both the Southern & Dobson and Red Mountain campus libraries. We promise this to be soulful and inspiring reading for you over the winter break and/or the start off the New Year!



## **New Dean of Student Affairs, Sonya Pearson**



After packing up her belongings and driving 1,100 miles from Missouri to Mesa Community College, MCC's new dean of student affairs has arrived in Arizona ready to tackle the challenge of helping to develop MCC's new downtown campus.

Sonya Pearson, former dean of student services at Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri, began work at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus last week, replacing Judy Taussig, who retires at the end of the year. Sonya takes over Judy's duties in the following areas:

- \* American Indian Center
- \* Multicultural Services
- \* Student Life and Leadership
- \* Disabilities Resource Services
- \* Children's Center
- \* Career / Adult Re-Entry
- \* Code of Conduct/Judicial Affairs at Southern & Dobson

Sonya will also work collaboratively with other student

affairs personnel in developing the delivery of student support services for the MCC downtown campus. She said she sees a multitude of opportunities that await her and she has several goals in mind for her new position.

"I'd like to see a greater connection between student development programs and enrollment management." Sonya said, "I'm fairly excited to work with the group by trying creative methods to enhance the existing relationship that student services has with the instructional area."

Sonya earned her master's degree in counseling and psychology from NE State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and her Ph.D. in organizational psychology from Walden University in Minneapolis.

In addition to her educational and work experience, Sonya said she loves to do service work and plans to continue serving the community in Arizona. She has previously been involved with the Red Cross, Relay for Life, and United Way.

She described her move to Arizona as "a transition full of emotion," and enjoyed the beautiful scenery along the way. Sonya's first visit to Arizona was when she applied for the dean's position at MCC and she has close family friends in Yuma. Sonya is looking forward to establishing roots in the area and hopes to become a valuable contributor to the Maricopa County Community College District and MCC.

"I'm a genuine person and I enjoy what I do," Sonya said. "I hope that comes across."

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## **CNC Milling Machines arrive at MCC machinery**

Two new Haas CNC (Computer Numerical Control) milling machines arrived at MCC recently to provide manufacturing technology students with up-to-date training for employment at machine tool businesses in the Valley.

"Having this state-of-the-art equipment is a major step forward for our program," said Tom Reyman, program director for MCC's manufacturing program. "It's important for students to learn to operate and maintain these machines."

Reyman said workers moved several older pieces of technology to make way for the new machines, which cost about \$25,000, stand nine feet high and take up about eight feet of space in the lab.

A CNC milling machine is used to cut metal and gives an operator the ability to program tool path movements ahead of time. The computer controls the movements, allowing for precise repeatability.

Haas Automation, the manufacturer of the machines, currently has 1,800 machines in the Phoenix area. Reyman said the Arizona Tooling and Machining Association encouraged MCC to get this equipment because of the severe shortage of qualified CNC operators and programmers in Maricopa County.

"There are machine operators working 60-70 hours a week to keep up with the demand," Reyman said. "I get phone calls from companies requesting names of people who have taken just a few classes and have some experience."



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The machines will be used primarily by students pursuing a degree or certificate in manufacturing technology or manufacturing machining and product development. CNC operators can earn from \$18-25 an hour and are employed by companies that make aerospace products or by smaller machine shops and specialty shops.

“This gives the students experience working and translates directly to what’s out there,” Ryman said. “They can walk right into a shop and operate this machine.”



## International Students Experience American Culture for Thanksgiving

International students blend traditional dishes and American customs

Whitney Watome, MCC student from Ghana, said that her family prepares traditional food for Thanksgiving along with favorites from their homeland such as foo-foo, a pounded plantain dish and a spicy peanut butter soup.

“My family gets together and we eat some turkey,” said Tara Kaleh, MCC student from Lebanon and ISA secretary. “We do have hummus and rice with our turkey.”

Robert David Anthony Ashby Babatunje of Guyana said that although his family doesn’t celebrate Thanksgiving, they don’t start the new year hungry. At one a.m. New Year’s Eve, they prepare a soup called Pepper Pot, a traditional dish that includes molasses, spices, and carrots.

With the college closed during the holidays, students who are far from home may be lonely. Not the case at MCC, however, where students from all over the world have found friendship through the International Student Association (ISA).

“Spending the holidays here has made me think of what I am missing at home,” said Katie Gamboz, MCC student from Canada. “Thanksgiving in Canada falls on the second week of October, and I missed my mom’s turkey and huge meal she and my dad spend time cooking for five days before.”

For many international students, celebrating Thanksgiving is a new experience. The past two years, Limse Thor, assistant in the advisement department, has hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for the international students at his home.

“I wanted to let them experience our American culture,” Limse said. “Last year I cooked a turkey, They didn’t care for it – perhaps it was my cooking. The Chinese students

would have preferred duck, but as long as you’re having poultry you should have turkey, It is tradition.”

This year turkey was still on the menu along with student favorites: hamburgers, hot dogs and chips. Nearly 20 students from Mexico, Iran, Japan, Africa, and the Middle East also spent time playing pool and Xbox games.

“We are all alone here, so it is an event to be a part of American culture,” said Mohammed Elsharkawar, MCC student from Saudi Arabia and president of the ISA. “Limse showed us how people in the U.S. give thanks to God for food and everything.”

Spending time with friends from the ISA is important to Katie. She said it gives her a “feeling like a sense of home.”

The ISA at MCC was created to promote goodwill among students and increase their appreciation for other cultures.

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