

February 05, 2008
the Bulletin
MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Are you ready for the new SIS? Cutover is February 12 – 19

District will begin the SIS migration of data at 5 pm on Tuesday, February 12 through Monday, February 18. During this time Legacy SIS will be in view only mode. Once District gives the okay, colleges will be able to access the new SIS the morning of Tuesday, February 19. The following details MCC's business plans during the cutover period.

Consistent messaging is critical as we strive to provide the best service possible during the cutover period. Please print and post the documents throughout this article to respond to questions.

Student Impact

Processes such as admissions, registration, and fee payment will be done in person or by phone using paper during the cutover. Student Affairs has done a detailed analysis of areas impacted during cutover which includes.

- * Admissions/ESL/Recruitment
- * Financial Aid/Veterans
- * Records and Registration (Southern and Dobson)
- * Enrollment Services (Red Mountain)
- * Call Center for Registration
- * Cashiers Services
- * Community Education

Please view the attached chart to learn how students will be served in the affected areas.

Faculty – residential and adjunct – must use the new SIS for grades and rosters

Once the new system is live, faculty will enter grades and check rosters through the online Faculty Center. These areas are password protected and only accessible to the faculty member assigned to the class - not department secretaries or Records and Registration staff.

Before you can gain access to SIS, you must complete the FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) tutorial to establish an account. The tutorial is available at

http://www.maricopa.edu/legal/ferpa/ferpa_tutorial/ferpatutorial.htm. Once you have finished the tutorial, you will fill out the Online Completion Form. This will create a record that you have indeed completed the tutorial.

Complete your FERPA tutorial as soon as possible to ensure your SIS account is ready for use when you need it.

MyMCC will be in VIEW ONLY mode February 14 – 18. Behind the scenes, MyMCC consists of data from the SIS system in the form of a shadow system. In order to switch from Legacy SIS to the new SIS production shadow system database, it is necessary to freeze certain processes in MyMCC.

Processes Impacted:

We expect only a small number of people will be impacted – brand new students or employees who had not completed account set-up prior to Feb. 8.

- * Instructors will not be able to establish a class as part of WebCT or post class messages.
- * Students and employees without a My MCC account will be unable to set up a new account.
- * Student Life at Southern and Dobson and Enrollment Services at Red Mountain will not be able to produce Student ID Cards
- * Employee ID cards will not be produced.
- * Users would not be able to change their passwords.
- * Anything requiring a change inside of My MCC will be impacted.

Processes Not Impacted:

- * Mesa email will continue to operate.
- * WEBCT will not be impacted. Students and instructors can continue to access and work in their WebCT classes.
- * HomeDirs will not be impacted.

FAQ's regarding the SIS cutover have been prepared for both employees and students. Please review them and post as appropriate to your area.

Mesa Legend announces new website

The *Mesa Legend*, MCC's student newspaper, is pleased to announce that their new website, www.mesalegend.com, is up and running.

The website, developed by College Publisher, offers readers the ability to register on the site which will allow them to receive the e-mail version of the *Legend* as well as any breaking news updates added to the site.

Those who would like to listen to stories from the *Legend* can also log on to itunes.mc.maricopa.edu to listen to podcasts.



MCC Hosts Smithsonian Traveling Photography Exhibit on China

Mesa Community College is pleased to host the new Smithsonian Traveling Photography Exhibit “Documenting China: Contemporary Photography and Social Change.” Separated from the West by thousands of miles and seemingly insurmountable cultural barriers, China has long been an unfamiliar, romanticized land—until recently. The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service partners with Bates College Museum of Art in Lewiston, Maine, to explore the social change in the most populous nation on Earth.

Focusing on the impacts of urbanization and industrialization in China, the exhibition of documentary photographers opens at MCC on March 1st. “Documenting China” will remain on view through April 27, before continuing on a national tour through 2009.

The exhibition presents the country from an insider’s point of view through dramatic works of seven Chinese photographers. With raw black-and-white and color images, photographers Liu Xiaodi, Jiang Jian, Zhang Xinmin, Luo Yongjin, Zhou Hai, Lu Yuanmin and Zhou Min unveil truths about China’s internal struggle—a battle between modern industrialism and the traditional, agrarian past that has sustained the country for thousands of years.

When: March 1- April 27,
 Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Fridays through Sundays, Noon to 4 p.m.
 Closed Mondays
 Exhibit is closed March 10-15 for spring break and March 23 for Easter Sunday.

Location: MCC main library (LB145) Admission: Free of charge

Volunteer: Volunteers are needed to help oversee the exhibit during busy hours and help collect & distribute short surveys about the exhibit. Contact Zoe Luter at (480) 461-7286.

This exhibition has been made possible through the generous support of Crystal Cruises.

This project was supported with funds granted by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Agency under the Library Services and Technology Act, which is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 50 years. It connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play.

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Bringing the Smithsonian Traveling Photo Exhibit to MCC has been an unforgettable experience for MCC’s outreach librarian Zoe Luter. Zoe began searching for a photo exhibit for the library after the success of the 2005 photo exhibit of Depression-Era Arizona. When she came across the China exhibit, she knew it would be an excellent choice for MCC.



Zoe began to look into applying for a grant to qualify for Arizona State Library funds to finance the exhibit. Before she could apply for the grant, however, she had to prove to the Smithsonian that MCC could meet the requirements of the exhibit.

There were several specific requirements to preserve the original photos. First, Zoe had to provide documentation that the library room, LB145, where the photos would be displayed, could stay at a temperature of between 68 and 72 degrees. That was not a problem. A little harder task, though, was maintaining 45-55 percent humidity, not an easy feat in our desert climate.

So Zoe asked the administration to turn down the temperature and borrowed humidifiers.

“We had people replenishing the humidifiers with water twice a day for two weeks,” Zoe said. “Then I bought a device to record the minute-to-minute readings and printed it out and mailed it to the Smithsonian.”

Zoe also rented a light meter to measure the intensity of light in the room. The requirement was 10-15 foot-candles of light, which was possible with the existing lighting. Zoe also had to provide a 35-page report on security, which included information on fire sprinklers, fire extinguishers and security cameras. During the exhibit, there must be a security guard present during exhibit hours and 24-hour surveillance cameras. Finally, knowing that MCC could meet the requirements, she applied for the grant.

“The Smithsonian has widespread recognition, so I knew it was a solid idea,” Zoe said. “We received complete funding! As soon as we knew, we hit the ground running.”

Since then, Zoe has been busy with preparations. She said the project is the ultimate outreach endeavor for the MCC library, bringing together community members, faculty and staff.

“I’m looking forward to seeing how the community responds to this exhibit,” Zoe said. “It’s a free event and I’m hoping that it brings people that would normally never go to something like this. I hope they are curious and bring their families and that we see the community get involved.”

New tools help students with disabilities

When Ken Spector sits down at a computer in the Mesa Community College’s adaptive computer lab, he relies on a screen reading program called JAWS to help him navigate the computer’s desktop or access notes from an instructor’s website. Then, with the help of a new Braille embosser, Ken can print out classroom materials in Braille. Or, if he’s interested in composing music, Ken can use a special keyboard/music station setup to compose and produce Braille sheet music.

Ken, who has been blind since he was an infant, is a student lab tech who teaches others how to use adaptive technology. He said employment statistics are grim for the disabled population, with only 20 percent finding employment. Ken believes education is the key to turning students with disabilities into productive members of society.

“Education can be difficult for people with disabilities,” Ken said. “By making people aware these tools exist, it will improve their prospects and get a larger percentage of the disabled population employed.”

Wink Harner, manager of MCC’s disability resources and services, said MCC provides services for about 800 students with documented disabilities. Her department assists students by providing advisement, academic adjustments and accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Wink said part of her job is teaching self-advocacy skills to students with disabilities. She works with high schools to teach the difference between high school and college expectations.

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“In college you have to ask,” Wink said. “You’re not identified, like in high school. We have a banquet of resources available, but you have to ask.”

The equipment Wink uses is just a sampling of a number of adaptive technology tools available at MCC, with more to come. Purchase of a new remote CART interpreting service for students with a hearing impairment is in the planning stages, providing the student access to a stenographer at a remote location. The stenographer and the student do not have to be in the same location, thereby saving money and resources. All that’s needed is Internet access and a laptop. Also in the works is a remote video interpreting system that uses video–conferencing equipment to provide sign language interpreting services.

Soundbeam is another tool that is very popular among students with or without disabilities. The device converts physical movements into sound and allows students to experience music through movement. The college has a Soundbeam club that meets every week. Wink is also looking into an interactive dance floor for further music exploration.

Ken, who will graduate this spring with three associate degrees, plans to pursue project management as a career. But he said he enjoys his current job because it gives him the chance to empower students, no matter what their disability.

“It’s satisfying to work with the students and contribute to their success and goals,” Ken said.



Ken Spector attributes his good grades in physics to the extra help from his physics instructor, Heidi Van Tassell. Van Tassell helped Ken understand challenging concepts by using puffy paint and other innovative materials.

“She took it upon herself tutor me individually and put forth extra effort that I haven’t received from other professors,” Ken said. “It’s people like her who contribute to student success. It’s also an example of how the campus as a whole takes responsibility for course accessibility as opposed to relying exclusively on disability resources and services.”



MCC’s International Film Festival director Don Castro and MCC’s vice-president of administrative affairs, Jerry Davis, present Dan Harkins, president of Harkins Entertainment, with a commemorative poster from the 4th Annual MCC Film Festival. Mr. Harkins will again help sponsor MCC’s annual film festival later this month.

International Film Festival

As this year’s fifth annual Mesa Community College International Film Festival approaches, festival director Don Castro hopes for the success experienced last year, which drew nearly 2,000 filmgoers and received 99.8 percent approval ratings from the audience.

For Don, organizing the festival is always hectic but satisfying.

“I love the research and I love the excitement of the festival,” Don said. “It’s given me a whole new excitement in my professional life and allows me to give back to MCC what it’s given me.”

This year’s festival will feature the films of Polish-born writer/director Krzysztof Zanussi with a personal appearance by Zanussi after each film. Film critic Roger Ebert called Zanussi “the best living maker of films about ideas.”

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Zanussi directed 76 films from 1958 through 2007 and is the winner of lifetime achievement awards from the Yerevan International Film Festival, the Florence Film Festival and the Chicago Film Festival.

Don said many of Zanussi’s films depict strong characters struggling with difficult situations. In *The Constant Factor*, the character refuses to give in to a corrupt corporate world and turns to math in search of the certainty that people can’t give him.

“These films are not action-packed,” Don said. “They present a moral dilemma that the character must work out. A lot of his characters want extraordinary lives and don’t accept business as usual.”

The festival features five of Zanussi’s films shown on five consecutive nights. The combined efforts of MCC, Harkins Theatre and the Arizona Humanities Council make the festival possible, bringing prestigious directors to the community year after year. Past festivals have featured a wide variety of directors, including India’s Shyam Benegal, U.S.-born Godfrey Reggio and several Iranian and Mexican women directors.

“It’s been our niche that the directors we bring to the festival are very complex individuals with their own take on the world,” Don said.

An important aspect of the festival is the gathering together of different cultures to watch the films night after night. Last year a student commented that the most fascinating aspect of the festival for him was the chance to sit next to people from India.

“It’s comments like that where students find themselves next to an Iranian or Indian family that shows that students learn about other cultures from both the movie and the people in the theatre,” Don said.

The Cinema of Moral Anxiety: The Films of Krzysztof Zanussi

All films are free and begin at 7 p.m. at Harkins Arizona Mills 24, 5000 Arizona Mills Circle, Tempe. Seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

- Tuesday, February 19th: **The Constant Factor** (1980)
- Wednesday, February 20th: **Wherever You Are** (1988)
- Thursday, February 21st: **The Silent Touch** (1992)
- Friday, February 22nd: **Life as a Fatal Sexually Transmitted Disease** (2000)
- Saturday, February 23rd: **Persona non Grata** (2005)

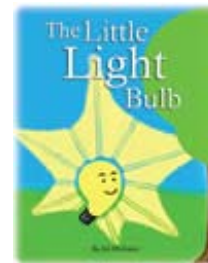


Recognitions



Congratulations to former MCC student Jasper Rubin, whose artwork *Orange Landscape* was selected from among 20 nominees to represent MCC in the nationwide League for Innovation in the Community College Art Competition. MCC is one of 19 community college districts from across the United States that is represented and the competition is a high honor for an art student. Jasper now attends the Art Institute of Chicago on a scholarship.

MCC student Ed McGuire recently published a children’s book titled, “The Little Light Bulb.” McGuire, who has cerebral palsy, believes “that no matter what life throws at you, determination, perseverance, and what you believe to be true, will triumph every time.” The book is available at www.thelittlelightbulb.com or by special order at the MCC bookstore (480) 461-7225.



Kudos to Coutney Tiberty and the MCC’s mortuary science department students for donating \$500 worth of toys to the Arizona Children’s Center this past Christmas.