

March 25, 2008
the Bulletin
MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

New Hispanics for Higher Education Program

A dedicated group of Mesa Community College students is reaching out to the Hispanic community through a new program called Hispanics for Higher Education. The goal of the program is to promote the choice of higher education among local Hispanic youth.

MCC students will be attending college fairs, visiting local K-12 schools, acting as mentors, making outbound phone calls to prospective Hispanic students, and making personal contact with MCC's Vidas y Valores past participants.

"They are a bright and energetic group of young people interested in making a difference in their community," said Sherrie Soria, coordinator of student services at MCC.

For MCC student Pricilla Ramos, the program provides an opportunity to help mentor other Hispanic students. Ramos, an education major who graduates from MCC in May and continues her education at Arizona State University this fall, said Soria and other MCC staff have helped her pursue her educational goals.

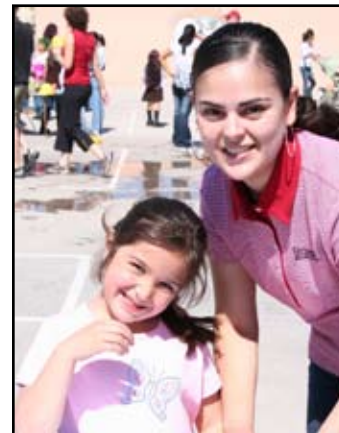
"I just want to give back," Ramos said. "My experience at MCC has been great. As a first-generation college student,

I've found people to help me, so I'd like to help others have a good college experience."

One of the group's first activities took place recently at Redbird Elementary School in Mesa, where they chatted with students and handed out MCC materials.

"The younger we can reach them, the better," Ramos said. "It's good to start introducing them to college early."

The program currently has seven members, six of whom will receive a tuition waiver once they reach a specific number of service hours for the project. Hispanics for Higher Education is funded through a Maricopa Grant. For more information on the program, contact Sherrie Soria at sherrie.soria@mccmail.maricopa.edu or 480.654-7739.



Isabella Soria and Priscilla Ramos, an MCC student.

Fiesta District News

Mesa Community College's Southern and Dobson campus is a vital part of Mesa's Fiesta District area. Since the campus is directly affected by redevelopment efforts in the area, we're providing a few links to news stories about the district to keep the campus community informed about recent happenings.
fiesta mall

March 6, 2008

Fiesta condos gain 50 reservations

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/0305mr-aqua0306.html>

March 5, 2008

Fiesta Mall-area condos generate buyer interest

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/0305mr-aqua0306.html>

March 4, 2008

Store closures, competition hurt Fiesta Mall

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/110512>

Feb. 27, 2008

Surveillance firm moves into Fiesta district tower

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/0227mr-iveda0227.html>

Feb. 21, 2008,
Panel OKs west Mesa apartment complex

www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/109618



Feb. 2008
Mesa Speaks: Development

www.eastvalleytribune.com/images/photos/2008/03/04/q9dj886w.jpg
<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/110576>



Feb. 9, 2008
Proactive plan saves stores

www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/0209sat2-09.html



Feb. 1, 2008
Best Buy moving across the street to Fiesta Mall

www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/107980

Jan. 22, 2008
Crowd asks candidates tough questions on west Mesa

www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/0122mr-forum0124.html

Jan. 17, 2008,
Mesa picks name for Fiesta area
www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/106832

Collaboration Between Business and Administrative Justice Studies Programs Expands Opportunities

Mesa Community College's Business and Administrative Justice Studies programs have joined forces to create several programs that expand and enhance student education and opportunities. Students in the Business Department pursuing an AAS degree in Organizational Management can now earn an AAS-Organizational Management degree with an AJS specialization emphasis. The specialization better prepares students for their careers with greater upward mobility opportunities.

"We have a core degree program that was being under-utilized," said Preston D. Cameron, Program Director of MCC's Business Program. "Kerry Muehlenbeck's guidance in the AJS program provides students with tremendous opportunity."

MCC's Organizational Management prepares students for employment in today's organizations by teaching them specialized skills so they are able to easily transition from a skilled position to dealing with people, projects, and technology and back again.

"That's what makes our partnership with the Administrative Justice Studies Department so significant," Cameron said. "Our students get the combination of specialized skills

in a selected Justice Studies area, along with a solid understanding of how to be successful managers."

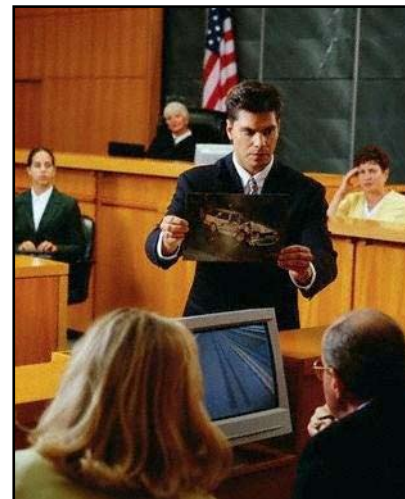
Students can follow any of these pathways:

AAS-Organizational Management – Police Management Emphasis

This degree option utilizes the AJS Police skill coursework to create a program of study that prepares students for civil police service as well as entry-level positions in corporate security organizations. Students gain an understanding of the skills and requirements for successful police service with the background and understanding of how to manage and build a team.

AAS-Organizational Management – Judicial Court Management Emphasis

This degree option combines the AJS Judicial Court coursework with the Organizational Leadership certificate. Students gain valuable training and insight into how the court system works, as well as how to staff and structure an organization's operations. During the recent Career Fair at MCC, Cameron shared this degree program option with recruiters for the city and county court systems. "Recruiters were ex-



cited and receptive to see the skills that we were developing in these students. They indicated that the job prospects for these students would be very high within their respective systems,” he said.

AAS-Organizational Management – Victim Advocacy Emphasis

This degree option combines the AJS Victim Advocacy skill coursework with a management program course of study to produce opportunities for students to move into civic and private advocacy organizations. Students gain an understanding of the need for services combined with the ability to plan, organize, control, and lead others to performance improvement.



The unique attribute of the partnership between the departments is the shared curriculum between the two programs. One third of the degree option meets general education requirements, one third secures the business leadership core, and the remaining third provides the AJS skill definition and certifications necessary to ensure the student has a substantive degree with legitimate occupational skills. “In several instances, students exceed the number of business credits with the number of skill credits they obtain,” Cameron said. “This isn’t just a business degree or an AJS degree, but rather it is a true partnership, a legitimate joint degree. It’s about partnering with departments to give students the skills and competencies to be successful. It’s about true teamwork.”

For more information on the degree programs or course pathway documentation, visit the degree website at <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d07/degrees.html>.

Teacher Rick finds opportunity in retirement

What does opportunity mean to a retired MCC math professor? For Rick Meyer it means providing schools to educate impoverished and middle class children in Cambodia who cannot afford the daily fee for public school.

His interest in this endeavor was sparked several years ago on a trip to Phnom Penh when he volunteered to tutor math at a school nearby his hotel. He was told they didn’t teach math and was eventually referred to a school in the squatter village of Railway B to help teachers with the correct pronunciation of English.

“Within days, the children of Railway B Community owned me,” Meyer said. “They called me Teacher Rick and had completely stolen my heart.”

Residents of squatter communities find scraps of wood, sheet metal, plastic and cardboard to build their homes. The children have one set of clothing including a pair of flip flop shoes while younger brothers and sisters have no clothes or shoes. By the time he had made his next visit to Cambodia and returned to Railway B Community, the school had closed.



“The volunteer organization had stopped their funding,” Meyer said. “So, I reached into my pocket, pulled out the necessary cash and reopened the school.”

Upon his return to the United State he formed a non-profit corporation called the Aogaah Foundation, which means opportunity in Khmer, the native language of Cambodia. Meyer has subsequently rented a building and renovated it himself by dividing it into two classrooms, adding a bath-

room and burying a pipe to contain an open sewage ditch. The new school is called Village 15 – Village16 School and currently enrolls approximately 150 students with hopes to enroll 400 students next year.

“We were overrun with students,” Meyer said. “We had set the maximum class size at 25 and we had many times that many wanting to register. Parents from neighboring villages were pounding on our door.”

Students attend school one hour a day, six days a week and study Khmer, math, science and social studies with a quiz every Friday. It is Aogaah’s goal to prepare students for employment by providing a six-year program that teaches them to read and write Khmer and use a calculator to solve trade math problems.

“The need is overwhelming,” Meyer said. “These are impoverished people without opportunity. Our students often come to school hungry. But they come, always so eager to learn.”

College and Students Benefit from Design Projects



When Mesa Community College interior design student Melanie Kettring was offered the opportunity to remodel one of the college’s drab classrooms, she jumped at the chance. Kettring created the original design with two other design students and then used her internship to bring it to completion. With the help of MCC plumbers, painters and carpenters, Kettring transformed an unused classroom into a sleek and functionally-efficient lab space for nutrition students.

“The redesign of the space is quite dramatic and was a wonderful internship experience for Melanie,” said Sally Kroelinger, MCC’s Interior Design Program Director.

Kettring said she was happy with the outcome and thrilled that others were also pleased.

“It was wonderful to see plans that I drew up actually be built,” said Kettring, whose ultimate goal is to earn a master’s degree and teach interior design classes at the collegiate level.

Kettring is just one example of many MCC students who take an active role in campus improvement projects on both campuses. When students dig in and learn as they go, both the students and the college benefit.

Interior design students played a major role in the redesign of the Kirk Student Center at the Southern and Dobson campus and the new cyber café that was added to the campus in 2003. At the Red Mountain campus, students participated in the student lounge design in the Acacia Village complex. Students have also been actively involved in landscaping projects at both campuses.

More recently, students are taking an active role in MCC’s new physical science building, which is still under construction at the Southern and Dobson campus. Interior design student Courtney Van Horn helped register the building for certification in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

“Even though I knew a lot about the importance of sustainable design, I didn’t know anything about LEED,” said Van Horn, who did an internship with the Smith Group. “I do now! It was great to be involved in helping my school obtain the green designation.”

Another project underway involves agribusiness and landscaping students who designed landscaping around three portable classrooms on the northwest end of the Southern and Dobson campus. Students in a 3D AutoCAD class created a layout of walkways, pergolas, and water features in three dimensions that brought life to a stalled project.

“This project simply would not have been possible without the talent and commitment of MCC students,” said project spokesman and psychology professor Derek Borman. “When this project is finally completed, it will stand as a testament to the excellence of our students and the vital role that they must play if MCC is to maintain a campus that is uplifting to the spirit, inspiring to the soul, and supportive of the highest ideals of education.”



Nutrition Lab after remodel



Nutrition Lab before remodel



Keep your eye out for MCC Quest on Channel 99 with Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo as she features the traveling Smithsonian exhibit,

Documenting China: Contemporary Photography and Social Change. Zoe Luter and Rick Effland are both interviewed and share their experiences with the exhibit and China respectively. The magazine show will be broadcast during March and April on Mesa Public Schools channel 99.

YouTube traveling Smithsonian exhibit at MCC is being previewed by way of PSA on You Tube and via our homepage. For your viewing pleasure access the following links. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SNiLjRS1Yw> or <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/library/exhibit/video.html>

MCC music instructor Joe Goglia just returned from an educational trip to Cuba where he was able to experience first hand many percussion-related techniques that will apply directly to his teaching.

MCC Math Professor Adam Avilez reports outstanding results from the MCC Math Club at the recent Southwest Undergraduate Mathematics Research Conference. Adam's observations: "We were one of two community colleges that attended. On the first day of the conference all the students were given a set of problems they could work on. Small prizes were given out for solved problems. Included in the problem set were four pages of text. Each of the four were encrypted with a different code. Our students collectively solved the first two ciphers early on. Amazingly on the second day, MCC student Katy Allen solved the third cipher all by herself in the span of a single hour while she ate breakfast! By the end of the conference no one could solve the fourth cipher. The organizers said they had a bigger prize (a large gift basket) for whoever could solve the fourth cipher first. MCC student Glenn Jackson completed a program that he then used to break the fourth cipher. I've also heard that he was the first to report solving it so he'll win the gift basket. What is really cool and amazing is no other school solved more than the first two ciphers. Our students were amazing. So if you see or know any of them, please feel free to congratulate them on their work."

Recognitions

Note: As MCC transitions into new leadership, "The Bulletin" will recognize faculty and staff accomplishments formerly found in the President's Weekly Communique. Please send your suggestions to Marcy Snitzer at marcy.snitzer@mcmail.maricopa.edu.

140 students and advisors from all over Arizona attended the Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention event hosted by Mesa Community College and Central Arizona Community College this month. MCC's chapter did extremely well, receiving the Phi Theta Kappa 5 Star Award (highest award a chapter can earn), the Leadership Hallmark Award, the Scholarship Hallmark Honorable Mention, and the Service Hallmark Honorable Mention.

Brian Garcia was named Outstanding Member, **Melisa Navarro** was named to the Hall of Honor, and **Ed Lipiniski** received the Horizon Award. MCC's chapter was also recognized as one of the Distinguished Chapters. **Stephen Hill** finished his term as regional president and Melisa Navarro finished her term as regional secretary. **Nedd Anderson** was elected to serve as the Arizona regional secretary for 2008-09.