

October 30, 2007

# the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

## Physical Science building tops off

On October 19, representatives from Barton Malow (construction services), SmithGroup (architecture), and MCC employees attended a Topping Out Ceremony to celebrate a milestone in the construction timeline of MCC's Physical Sciences Building. Attendees signed the uppermost steel beam before it was placed atop of the building where the structure reaches its highest point. The ceremony is one of the construction industry's oldest customs.

In addition to signing the beam, a U.S. flag and evergreen tree were placed atop the beam. Both items honor traditions and customs symbolic of prosperity, luck, and respect.

The U.S. flag represents the American dream. It is a way to honor those construction workers who have contributed to building America into the great country it is today.

The evergreen tree comes from Scandinavian traditions brought to the United States by 19th century immigrants. At one time, wood was the primary building material for European homes. Since the evergreen tree was considered a "good spirit," a tree was placed

on top of the home to remind the spirit that they had shown consideration for the forest before using its bounty for construction. Another custom suggests that placing the evergreen on top of the home was done as a sign of rebirth and prosperity.

By following the customs and traditions set forth by our ancestors, the Topping Out Ceremony allowed MCC to christen the construction of the building, bless the new building, and thank all those who are working diligently to make it a world-class facility.



## A smile is universal - dental hygiene professionals share best practices.



*Phebe Blitz, MCC dental hygiene faculty gave one-on-one toothbrush instruction to children at an orphanage in Poland.*

Students in Phebe Blitz's dental hygiene courses gain a cultural perspective along with their classroom and practical experience. As part of her curriculum she integrates her first-hand knowledge from

other countries and their approach to dental care in areas of education, business practices and social systems.

This past summer, Phebe, the dental hygiene faculty program director at Red Mountain, was one of 51 other professionals from all over the nation to participate in a People to People delegation that traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia and Warsaw, Poland. The American Dental Hygienists Association coordinated the selection of the delegates whose varied backgrounds included educators, clinicians, researchers and public health specialists. Expense for travel was funded by individual participants.

For ten days, the delegation gained an inside view of the dental health systems of both countries as they visited clinics and exchanged ideas with dental students, officials from the ministries of health, educators, officers of dental hygiene associations and dental professionals.

*continued on page 2*

*continued from page 1*

Phebe found that although there were differences in dental practices, there were also many similarities. "It was interesting to see that they have the same type of sterilizing equipment for instruments and an ultra violet light system as well," she said. Phebe described the clinics as updated, state-of-the-art facilities.

One highlight for Phebe was the group's visit to an orphanage in Poland, where she gave one-on-one toothbrush instruction to a young child. "They were cute little kids and of course we didn't speak their language and they didn't speak our language, but we managed," Phebe said. "It was very rewarding and nice to see that

their physical facility was clean and warm and that the children were smiling and happy."

Sharing her experiences with her students raises their awareness, broadens their perspective and exposes them to other ways of doing things, Phebe said.

Plans for the future include the possibility of paring up MCC students with students from New Zealand. "The students will get to know each other a little bit and learn about the health care system and education in both countries," Phebe said.

## Inter-Tribal Student Organization takes first place in parade

Even though a campus lockdown delayed the last minute details on their parade entry, Mesa Community College's Inter-Tribal Student Organization (ISO) took first place in the trade school/college category in the 25th annual Native American Connections Parade.

"We were so surprised," said Jennifer Zahne, student senator of the ISO. "On Friday we had a lockdown and didn't have time to finish, so we had to rush and do everything last minute on Saturday."

The group decorated a truck with a wood and cardboard replica of the MCC Thunderbird and an ISO banner. Zahne said the preparation and the parade was a lot of fun, but they never expected to receive a first-place trophy. The group competed against Arizona State University and several other Valley schools in downtown Phoenix.

"It meant a lot to win," Zahne said. "We were happy to get the word out about the club."

The parade was produced by Native American Connections, a private, nonprofit agency that provide basic needs services to Native people living in the Phoenix area. The parade features nearly 100 entries every year, including Native veterans groups, tribal communities, community

groups, youth/college groups, equestrian teams, traditional dancers, music and bands and tribal royalty and dignitaries.

MCC's ISO club was formed in the '80s to increase awareness and appreciation for cultural heritage of inter-tribal Native American students. Loretta Damon is advisor for the club, which currently has about 30 active members.




**Upcoming ISO activities:**  
American Indian Parade of Nations Fashion Show, featuring fashion show, ethnic food, jewelry and arts and crafts.

**Nov. 5 at 11:30**

**Outside the Kirk Student Center**



**TWO SPECTACULAR EVENTS!**



# Homecoming 2007

**Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet**  
Friday, November 2, 2007

Dalton Ranch Inn  
7880 E. Dalton Road, Mesa, AZ 85202

Reception 6:00 p.m. – Dinner and Program 8:00 p.m.



Tickets are \$20 per person, RSVP by calling 480-961-7962 or visit [www.ac.mesaopen.edu/gasafaf](http://www.ac.mesaopen.edu/gasafaf)

**Homecoming Festival and Football Game**  
Saturday, November 3, 2007

12:00 p.m. – Festival  
 Thunderbirds – Tickets available for purchase only!  
 M.C. Anderson College Football – Tickets available for purchase only!  
 Professional Sports – Tickets available for purchase only!  
 Reception 6:00 p.m. – Dinner and Program 8:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – Football Game  
 M.C. Anderson College Football – Tickets available for purchase only!  
 Thunderbirds – Tickets available for purchase only!  
 Professional Sports – Tickets available for purchase only!  
 Reception 6:00 p.m. – Dinner and Program 8:00 p.m.

**Mesa Community College**  
 1000 W. McDowell Ave., Mesa, AZ 85202  
 (480) 961-7962  
[www.mesaopen.edu](http://www.mesaopen.edu)

**Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet**  
 Friday, November 2, 2007, 8:00 p.m.  
 Reception and Dinner 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Homecoming Festival and Football Game**  
 Saturday, November 3, 2007, 12:00 p.m.

**Thunderbirds Rising**  
 Tickets available for purchase only!  
 Reception 6:00 p.m. – Dinner and Program 8:00 p.m.

**Mesa Community College**  
 1000 W. McDowell Ave., Mesa, AZ 85202  
 (480) 961-7962  
[www.mesaopen.edu](http://www.mesaopen.edu)

## Recognitions

Do you know someone who should be recognized? Send your suggestions to Marcy Snitzer.

### Dave Yount

His paper, “Is the One of Parmenides’ First Hypothesis Best Interpreted as the Form of the Good?” has been accepted for presentation in a colloquium session at the upcoming meeting of the APA Pacific Division. The paper is based on of the central claims in his book, "Plotinus: THE Platonist", on which he is currently working.

