IN SEARCH OF ALL MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI

In an effort to bring alumni from around the globe back together, Mesa Community College is proud to announce the publication of an all-new Alumni Directory.

Scheduled for release in the spring of 2008, our Alumni Directory will be the most up-to-date and complete reference of more than 43,000 Mesa Community College graduates compiled! This comprehensive volume will include current name and name when a student (if different) as well as class year(s) and degree(s) earned from Mesa Community College. Each biographical listing will also include home address and phone number, names of spouse and children, in addition to detailed professional information. The new 2008 edition will list alumni alphabetically with the information outlined above, by class year, by geographic location, and by occupation in our special career networking section. The Alumni Office has chosen Harris Connect to produce this special edition. Harris Connect will soon begin researching and compiling the data to be included in the directory by mailing a questionnaire to each alumnus/a. Please be sure to fill it out and return it as soon as you receive it. (If we don’t have your current address, please contact the Alumni Office as soon as possible so we can make sure you receive a directory questionnaire!)

With your participation, the 2008 edition of the Mesa Community College Alumni Directory is sure to be a great success. Look for more details on the project in future issues of this newsletter.

Seeking Volunteers

Looking for a chance to promote your alma mater? Nominations are being accepted for the MCC Alumni Board. Join our group of volunteers to plan the activities and opportunities offered to MCC’s more than 40,000 alumni.

How much time is required? Board members attend quarterly meetings and an annual retreat. To complete an Alumni Board interest form and learn more about the association, visit www.mcm.maricopa.edu/alumniboard or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 480-461-7792.

A Mesa Community College gift certificate is an investment in a student’s future. Let your favorite student know you believe in the value of a college education, and help them achieve their career goals. Certificates are perfect for graduating seniors, dual-enrolled high school students, students currently attending MCC, or working adults wishing to enhance their job skills or prepare for a new career.

• Certificates may be used for tuition, fees, and books.
• Gifts are available in $50, $100, and $250 increments.
• Purchase gift certificates in the cashier’s office at both the Southern and Dobson and Red Mountain campuses.
• For more information, contact Cassher Services. Call (480) 461-7400, option 3.

MCC gift certificates are not refundable, not redeemable for cash and are non-transferable.

Outdoor enthusiast finds dream job

Scott Mackey’s job at the Arizona Game and Fish Department often takes him out into the middle of nowhere. But for Mackey, an avid outdoor enthusiast, that’s exactly where he wants to be. “The thing I love most about my current job is the hands-on nature of field work,” said Mackey, who is currently performing habitat assessments of potential bighorn sheep transplant sites. “I spend the majority of my time in the field, collecting data and samples and taking pictures. I am led to areas I would otherwise never see and I have experienced more of Arizona’s vast landscape than I ever would have on my own.”

The classes Mackey took in MCC’s Life Science Department started Mackey on his career path. After a half-hearted attempt at majoring in business, Mackey soon discovered his true interests lie in conservation biology. He became active in MCC’s Environmental Action Club and went on field trips with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, which eventually led him to his current job.

“The teachers in the MCC Life Sciences Department provided me with guidance I couldn’t have received anywhere else,” said Mackey, who went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in Conservation Biology from Arizona State University. “The diversity of the teaching staff offered my biological path I couldn’t have chosen—Boonie Kalcott’s forte of marine wildlife, Andy Baldwin’s knowledge of herpetology (amphibians and reptiles), and Ron Dinchak’s vast knowledge of desert plant life.” All of these disciplines contributed to my understanding of wildlife biology.

Mackey’s previous project for Arizona Game and Fish involved the construction and maintenance of two elk-excluding fences around the riparian habitat of Canyon Creek in the Tonto National Forest. The area was burned in the 1990 Dude Fire and due to the abundance of elk in the area, the vegetation was being trampled and foraging. The enclosures protected the sensitive fauna from elk while allowing for the passage of smaller wildlife such as deer, turkey, and eagles to have access to the creek.

Mackey’s future plans involve being an observer on a fishing boat for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and continuing studies at ASU in applied biological systems. Mackey keeps in touch with MCC biology instructor Ron Dinchak and traveled to Alaska with Dinchak last summer.

“The opportunities and experiences made possible by the instructors at MCC sparked my interest in conservation biology and gave me the contacts to pursue the career I have today,” Mackey said.

Give the Gift of Learning

Alumni Nancy Donsbach . . . . . . Page 2
Girl Scouts honor MCC Alumna . . . Page 2
Get In Shape . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Page 2
MCC Internship Opportunities . . . . . Page 3
Experience the Arts . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Page 3
In Search of All Alumni . . . . . . . . . . . Page 4
As the school year opens, we look forward to ground-breaking for the physical science building on our MCC Southern and Dobson campuses. February 2007 is the deadline for the completion of construction documents and the ground-breaking is anticipated to occur in April.

The new building will house geology, physics, astronomy, and chemistry and is designed based on several guiding principles. First and foremost is addressing student learning. Also important is well-placed and planned teaching and learning styles. Additionally, encouraging student/faculty interaction and adapting in the future.

The second is to meet deadlines for the completion of construction phases. LEED certification denotes a commitment to the environment and provides benefits such as reduced operating costs, better conservation of our natural resources, and healthier and more productive environments.

The second is the creation of an astronomy plaza and planetarium. Both areas will provide opportunities for outreach to our community, particularly in the E-12 area where we already have strong connections through our science day program. Due to funding limitations, the infrastructure for the planetarium will be put in place and partnerships will be pursued to fund the remainder of the project.

Plans are underway for additional buildings at our Southern and Dobson, Red Mountain, and Downtown campuses using funds approved in the 2004 bond package. We will provide updates on the projects as they move into the construction phases.

The campus employs sustainable gardening practices along the trail that conserve natural resources and reflect the mission of the college to be environmentally responsible. In addition, the campus recently conducted a Native American blessing of the trail to symbolize a harmonious relationship with the land.

The campus is located at 7110 E. McKellips Road in Mesa, Arizona.

Larry K. Christiansen, President

Get in shape

Feel like getting some fresh air and exercise after the busy holiday season? The fitness trail at MCC’s Red Mountain campus offers faculty, staff, students, and the community the opportunity to exercise while experiencing the beauty of the native Sonoran desert.

This 2-mile footpath begins just outside the Mesquite building and wraps around the perimeter of the campus. Boulders etched with desert critters mark quarter-mile increments for walkers and joggers as they make their way around the loop.