

## Travel Abroad This Summer

If you have ever considered traveling abroad and are interested in pairing it with an immersive, educational experience, check out MCC's study abroad programs. Each program provides an opportunity to earn transferable college credit while living in and experiencing a foreign culture. Most programs are 3 - 5 weeks long.

MCC offers eight study abroad programs this summer, with a variety of courses, including an anthropology class in China, photography in Costa Rica, or marine biology in Puerto Peñasco.

There's also the opportunity to learn about storytelling in Ireland, study history in Britain, and delve into international business in Prague. Education and social work majors have the opportunity to earn 1-credit of service-learning in classrooms in Xalapa, Mexico.

A trip to Andalucia, Spain, is offered for the first time this summer, with classes in world religions, intermediate Spanish, art and architecture in the Islamic world, and Spanish civilization. Although not offered every year, MCC has study abroad programs in Jordan and Namibia.

Application Information: The trips take place in the summer months, but the program application deadline is March 23. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to reserve their spot. Financial aid, grants and scholarships can also be used to help cover the cost of participating in a study abroad program. The scholarship deadline is March 1. For more information on MCC's study abroad programs, contact 480.461.7870 or visit [www.mesacc.edu/studyabroad](http://www.mesacc.edu/studyabroad).



MCC student Mya Brown in Britain



MCC student Ashley Sanders in Ireland

MCC STUDYABROAD PROGRAMS



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# Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association

## Explore the Rose Garden at MCC



Spring is prime time to experience the glory of nearly 9,000 rose bushes in bloom in the Rose Garden at Mesa Community College. And for those not content to just stop and smell the roses, there's a self-guided tour via cell phone available by dialing up the numbers shown on signs posted at eight different flower beds in the garden.

*"Most people don't know about the tour," said garden volunteer and rose show judge Lynn Twitchell. "It's free and it's informative."*

The tour begins at the entrance to the garden and winds through 36 rose beds. Visitors will gain information about the more than 300 varieties of roses, including the most famous rose in the world, the peace rose. Facts about the history of the garden and the Blue Star Memorial are also included.

The audio tour is powered by OnCell Systems and plans to add more stops to the tour are in the works.

For a more personal touch, visitors can arrange for a guided tour by an expert rosarian or volunteer. These tours can be scheduled on the garden's website.

"When I take people on tours, I find they are interested in the history of the specific roses, such as the peace rose or the Lincoln rose," Twitchell said.

Her favorite section of the garden is the Veterans Garden, containing 2,500 roses with patriotic names such as "About Face, America, Fourth of July and Peace." Veterans groups and individuals use this section for ceremonies or private reflection.

The Rose Garden began as a partnership between MCC and the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society in 1997. It's the largest public rose garden in the desert southwest and is the last public rose garden established since 1974.

Students use the garden for academic purposes and nearby residents use it as a source of ideas for their own gardens. The peaceful atmosphere creates a place for other special events, such as craft fairs or weddings. The garden has become a local landmark that honors the rose as an international symbol for friendship, love, beauty and peace.

The garden is maintained by nearly 800 volunteers who donated nearly 4,000 hours of service in 2010 and about 2,660 hours of service in 2011. It is located on the Southern and Dobson campus along Southern Avenue.



For more information on the Rose Garden and to view many beautiful rose photos, visit [www.RoseGardenatMCC.org](http://www.RoseGardenatMCC.org).

**When to Visit** The roses are most beautiful from **October to early December** and again during the months of **April, May and June**. The Alumni Association will be hosting an event in April. Invitations will be sent out via email. Contact Jennifer LaForge at [jenner@mesacc.edu](mailto:jenner@mesacc.edu) if you need to be added to our list!

## Spring 2012

|                                           |               |                             |               |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Rose Garden - Did You Know? .....         | <b>Page 2</b> | Travel Abroad.....          | <b>Page 5</b> |
| Undergraduate Research .....              | <b>Page 2</b> | New Construction.....       | <b>Page 5</b> |
| Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations .... | <b>Page 3</b> | Scholarship Recipients..... | <b>Page 5</b> |
| Field of Dreams.....                      | <b>Page 4</b> | Mark Your Calendar .....    | <b>Page 6</b> |



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MCC Alumni Association

EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN

Alumni & Friends is published by the Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) for the alumni of Mesa Community College.

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ALUMNI EVENTS - REGISTER TODAY AT [WWW.ALUMNICONNECTIONS.COM/MCC](http://WWW.ALUMNICONNECTIONS.COM/MCC) AND CLICK ON THE EVENTS CALENDAR

## Mark Your Calendar

**February 24, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.**  
**Salt River Land Fill Tour**  
13602 N. Beeline Hwy, Scottsdale, AZ

**March 1-3, 8-10**  
**Rent**  
Theatre Outback

**March 2, 6:00-10:00 p.m.**  
**Astronomy Nights, Planetarium shows every half hour**  
Physical Science Building

**March 22-23, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Spring Dance Concert**  
Theatre Outback

**March 24, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Dance Classes Scholarship Showcase**  
East Gym

**March 27, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Video Game Speaker Series**  
**The Playcentric Game Design Process**  
Paul Elsner Library, Room LB145

**March 28, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**MCC Open House**  
Navajo Room

**March 29, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**MCC Open House**  
Lower Level Courtyard, Red Mountain Campus

**April 6, 6:00-10:00 p.m.**  
**Astronomy Nights, Planetarium shows every half hour**  
Physical Science Building

**April 9-19**  
**Student Art Show**  
**Awards and Reception, April 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**  
Navajo Room

**April 21-22, 26-28**  
**Dog Sees God: Confessions of A Teenage Blockhead**  
Theatre Outback

**May 1, 6:00-10:00 p.m.**  
**Astronomy Nights, Planetarium shows every half hour**  
Physical Science Building

**May 4, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Broadway Bound**  
Theatre Outback

**May 11, 8:00 p.m.**  
**Commencement**  
Center Courtyard

**June 1, 6:00-10:00 p.m.**  
**Astronomy Nights, Planetarium shows every half hour**  
Physical Science Building

● All events are taking place at MCC's Southern and Dobson Campus unless otherwise noted

For a complete listing of events and times, check out our online calendars.

**GENERAL MCC EVENTS** [mesacc.edu/alumni](http://mesacc.edu/alumni) then click EVENTS CALENDAR **ATHLETICS** [athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules](http://athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules)

## MEET THE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Jasmyne Arnett Major: Dietitian**

"I have learned through life experiences and as I have pursued my education in the Dietetics program that nutrition and lifestyle are essential to a balanced, healthy life. It is my goal to further the academic field of dietetics as I pursue a career as a Registered Dietician."

Jasmyne transferred to Arizona State University this past January.



**Andrea Tucker Major: Social Work**

"I want to go into social work because I want to make a difference; it sounds cliché but it's the true reason. I want to go into adoption/foster care because I want to give children a loving family and an actual childhood. My goal is to eventually become an adoption agent."

Andrea plans to graduate from MCC this May and transfer to ASU.

## NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELS ON MCC'S CAMPUSES



On your next visit to MCC, you may be surprised by some of the changes. In 2004, Maricopa County voters approved a \$951 million bond initiative for the Maricopa County Community College District. MCC received \$90 million for new construction and remodeling of existing spaces, and an additional \$25 million for technology and site development.

The most recent Bond Update provides a summary of all the projects. View it at: [www.mesacc.edu/bond-update](http://www.mesacc.edu/bond-update).

**2011-12 ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS** Thank you to the individuals who serve on the MCC Alumni Association advisory board!

|                    |                   |                    |                 |                |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Donna Backhaus     | Mary Chavez       | Evelyn Plantillas, | Trina Sipple    | Victor Tiffany |
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| William Brickhouse | Carlton Gillespie | Phillip Reese      | Joseph Swaba    | Louise Zais    |
| Aaron Carpenter    | Frank Morales     | Emmet Ronan        | Arlen Sykes     |                |

## Did You Know?

### Rose Garden now on "Trip Advisor"

The Rose Garden at MCC is now listed as an attraction with Trip Advisor, a widely-used website that helps travelers find hotels, restaurants, and attractions in a city they will be traveling. It includes reviews so the traveler can gauge the value of the listing. Check out "Things to Do in Mesa," [www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g31281-Activities-Mesa\\_Arizona.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g31281-Activities-Mesa_Arizona.html).

If you'd like to add a review of the garden, the ranking of The Garden can be pushed up the list. If you check "Yes" next to each review's "Was this review helpful?" it will help even more to push the listing higher.

### Four Phases

The Rose Garden at Mesa Community College was constructed and planted in four phases with the first and second phases planted from 1997 to 2000. The seatwall and terrace patio area in the East garden were dedicated to former Governor Rose Mofford and the Honorable Polly Rosenbaum, former State Representative.

Phase three is "The Veterans Rose Garden," completed in 2005. The garden was designed to honor "Past, Present and Future" members who have, are and will serve in the five branches of the United States of America military. The garden features our National, State and POW flags along with those of the five Service Branches surrounded by nearly 2,000 Roses.

Phase four includes rose beds symbolizing "Love, Friendship, Beauty and Peace" with plantings completed in 2011.

### Volunteer

The Rose Garden Pruners are a team of volunteers that, together with the Deadheaders, prune all the rose bushes on Saturdays during the pruning seasons of September – October, and January – February. This is a big job and many volunteers are needed. Many Pruners include members from other community service organizations, as well as MCC campus groups. For more information, contact the volunteer coordinator at: [volunteercoordinator@rosegardenatmcc.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@rosegardenatmcc.org).

### Become a Friend of the Garden

If you'd like to become a friend of The Garden and receive the monthly E-Communicator, visit [rosegarden.mesacc.edu/joinouremailinglist.html](http://rosegarden.mesacc.edu/joinouremailinglist.html) and fill out the form to be added to the e-mailing list. The publication contains a listing of activities and information on caring for roses.

### Master Gardeners

The Rose Garden at MCC is honored to have several Master Gardeners working at the garden. Master Gardener programs (also known as Extension Master Gardener Programs) are volunteer programs affiliated with a land-grant university and one of its cooperative extension service offices to educate the public on gardening and horticultural issues. Typically, Master Gardeners receive extensive training and then answer questions via phone, speak at public events and participate in community gardening displays. You are likely to find several of them at regular third Saturday morning meetings in the garden.

## MCC PROFESSOR AND ALUMNA PRESENT AT BRIEFING FOR THE COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



Niccole Cerveny, an MCC Professor of Geography (pictured right), along with Stephanie Villa, an undergraduate researcher, graduate of MCC, and doctoral student at Northwestern University, presented on Capitol Hill during a briefing of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR).

Dr. Cerveny provided an educator's perspective on how an undergraduate research experience is a more effective way to teach students and ultimately leads to increases in transfers to four-year institutions. Stephanie, who is now pursuing her Ph.D. at Northwestern University, concurred with Niccole and explained that each stage of her undergraduate career included research that has prepared her to pursue her career goals at Northwestern.

CUR stressed there is a strong correlation between undergraduate research opportunities and persistence in science-related programs of study and careers. With nearly 50% of university students beginning their education at community colleges, undergraduate research experiences must become commonplace on community college campuses. Undergraduate research opportunities attract and retain community college students in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields that are crucial to the country's economic success and global competitiveness.



## Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations Installed at MCC are a First for Mesa

MCC's Southern and Dobson campus is now a Charging Site Host for an Electrical Vehicle (EV) Project by ECOTality North America. By being a host and participating in the EV Project, three Blink Network pedestal charging stations have been installed at the Southern and Dobson campus near the Rose Garden.

On August 5, 2009, ECOTality was awarded a \$99.8 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to embark on this project. The project was officially launched October 2009 and in June 2010, the project was granted an additional \$15 million.

The charging stations at MCC are the first to be installed in the City of Mesa, AZ. All installation costs were paid for by the EV Project. Funding from the project is supporting the installation of 14,000 chargers in 18 major cities located in California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Texas, Tennessee and Washington, D.C. A portion of the funding is also supporting home charging units.

Through December 31, 2012, MCC is receiving the Blink charging stations free. The campus will also receive free maintenance coverage of the charging stations and access to usage data collected through the EV Project study period. ECOTality will analyze vehicle performance and charging station effectiveness. At the conclusion of the project MCC will decide whether or not to keep the charging stations on campus for a minimal monthly fee per charger.

Both Nissan LEAF and Chevrolet Volt drivers qualify to participate. They receive a residential charger at no cost and a Blink network card, which after activation can be used to charge an EV at charging stations throughout the community. The stations at MCC are all connected through the Blink network.

Five parking spaces have been designated for the charging stations on the MCC campus. The charging stations are open to use by the public. A user will plug their car in and scan their Blink Network card to begin charging. The cost of the electricity used to charge a vehicle is passed on to the user. It can take between two and three hours to get a 50 percent charge. While charging their car, Leaf or Volt owners can take classes, visit the MCC Library, Grounds for Thought Coffeehouse, relax in the Rose Garden or visit neighboring restaurants and shops.

Jennifer Cafarella, an adjunct faculty member at MCC, is a Nissan LEAF owner. She was excited to learn MCC is now providing charging stations. "EVs are the wave of the future and MCC is empowering themselves by putting in these stations," stated Jennifer. Jennifer lives in North Scottsdale, travels to MCC and then downtown Phoenix on a daily basis. She added, "This is the perfect thing for me. I have to plan my days accordingly and usually return home with about 20 miles left. Knowing there is a charging station on campus gives me more freedom."

**Typically, Jennifer says she can travel approximately 100 miles on one charge. "I plug my car in each night like I plug in my cell phone. My electric bill is only \$20 higher each month with the addition of the charging station at my home. This is still much less than the expense of gas on a weekly basis. I am excited to try it out this spring," she stated.**

MCC is not the only College in the Maricopa Community College District participating in the EV Project. Other campuses participating include Phoenix College, Rio Salado College, Paradise Valley Community College, Glendale Community College, and the Lifelong Learning Center.

## MCC's Field of Dreams



When Paul Swingle played baseball at Mesa Community College, he never dreamed he'd one day play ball in the major leagues. He also never imagined he'd have a son who would follow in his footsteps by playing ball for the Thunderbirds under the same coach, Tony Cirelli.

Swingle is thrilled that both of those scenarios came true. After playing ball at MCC from 1986-87, under then-assistant coach Cirelli, Swingle went on to attend Grand Canyon University and was drafted by the California Angels in the early '90s. Today he lives in New Hampshire, coaching young players and working in construction.

Swingle said during his time at MCC he met a lot of great people and learned to work very hard under Coach Cirelli.

*"To be competitive, you have to have that work ethic installed," Swingle said. "You have to work hard. Nobody's going to give you anything."*

That's part of the advice Swingle gave his son, Steve, when he transferred to MCC from New Hampshire last year. Steve said he was slightly nervous about the possible expectations that people would put upon him as the son of a professional athlete.

"At first, I wasn't sure about playing at the same college my dad attended," Steve Swingle said. "But I'm a catcher and my dad was a pitcher, so that set us apart."

Steve said his dream is to be a superstar in the major leagues. He knows from his dad that it's going to take a lot of hard work and perseverance.

"He told me to stay confident and work harder than anyone else," Steve said. "He also said, 'It's baseball, so just have fun.'"

Coach Tony Cirelli joined the MCC staff as infield coach in 1985. He was named head coach in 1995 and now holds the record for most wins in the history of MCC Baseball. In the past 17 years, 28 MCC players have been drafted by Major League Baseball teams.

Cirelli said he remembers Steve's father, Paul, very well. Cirelli is also coaching the son of another MCC alumnus and major league player, Brett Merriman, whose son, Alec, currently plays for the Thunderbirds. Brett Merriman played for the Twins, Rockies, Angels and Padres.

"It's a pretty unique situation," Cirelli said of coaching two generations of Thunderbird baseball players. He chuckled when asked if he sees similarities or differences in the generations.

"The sons are way better students," Cirelli said. "Both of the dads have really stressed education with their sons."

For Paul Swingle, seeing a photo of his son posing in front of a baseball with his name on it on the MCC outfield wall brings back memories.

*"I have good memories there," Paul Swingle said. "I love the fact that my son is a Thunderbird. I have a sense of pride that he's playing college ball and it makes it sweeter that he's at the place I played at."*