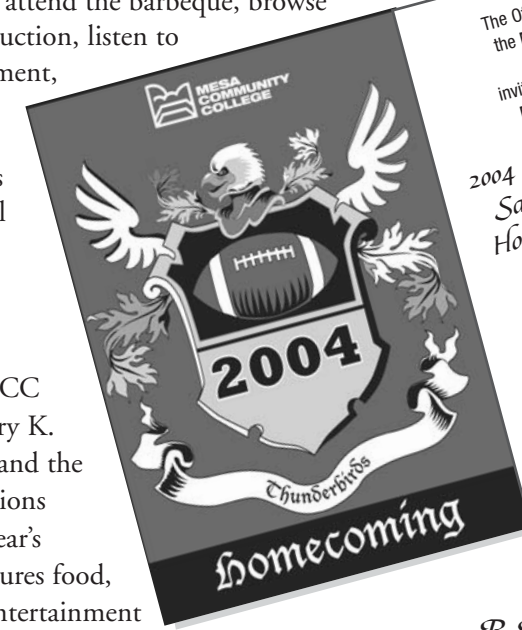


Alumni & Friends

FALL 2004

Homecoming 2004 - Renaissance

Mesa Community College will travel back in time to the Renaissance period this fall at MCC's Homecoming 2004. Come celebrate an evening of enchantment and feasting, then gather around the football field to watch the game. You and a guest are invited to attend the barbeque, browse at the silent auction, listen to the entertainment, and cheer the Mesa Thunderbirds at the football game.



Football

The Mesa Thunderbirds will take on the Glendale Community College Gauchos. Kickoff is at 7:00 p.m. Last year Dan Dunn was appointed head football coach of the Thunderbirds. This year Dan will wear an additional "hat." Coach Dunn has been selected as the new athletic director for MCC. He succeeds Allen Benedict, who recently retired.

RSVP

A reservation is required if you plan to attend the barbeque. Please RSVP by calling 480-461-7501. Leave your first and last name with the correct spelling, the name of your guest, and a contact phone number. You may also reserve your space online at www.mc.maricopa.edu/homecoming04.

In case of inclement weather, the barbeque will relocate to the Kirk Student Center.



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Barbeque

Hosted by MCC President Larry K. Christiansen and the Alumni Relations Office, this year's barbeque features food, games, and entertainment for the whole family. Food service will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the center of campus near the clock tower. The barbeque is free, but seating is limited so don't forget to make your reservation by calling 480-461-7501, or reserve your space online at www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni/homecoming04.

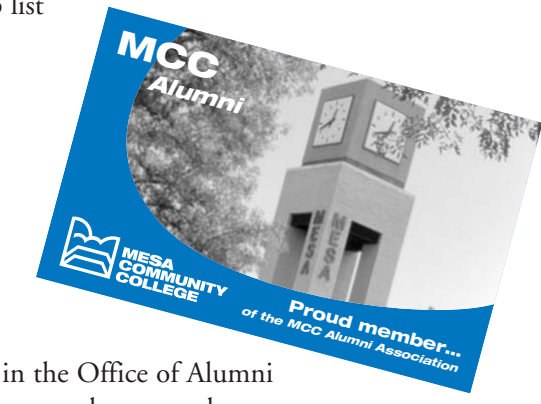
Silent Auction

The MCC Alumni Association is sponsoring a silent auction to raise funds for the alumni scholarship program. Since the program's inception in 1997, the alumni association has awarded scholarships to seven students. The silent auction is from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. Winners will be announced at 6:30.

ALUMNI CARDS AVAILABLE TODAY!

MCC alumni can now request an alumni card that identifies them as members in MCC's alumni association. The card is free and available to anyone who has attended MCC. Requesting your alumni card puts you on our active membership list and entitles you to a variety of services:

- Invitations to special events and ceremonies
- Free admission to all athletic events
- Discounted tickets to the Theatre Outback
- A 10 percent discount on merchandise bearing the MCC logo (excluding textbooks) at the college bookstore
- Free library privileges
- Free use of MCC Career and Re-entry Services



To receive your card, please contact Jennifer LaForge in the Office of Alumni Relations at 480-461-7794. Leave your first and last name, phone number, and current mailing address. You may also e-mail your request to jenner@mail.mc.maricopa.edu.

Coming Soon!

Three newspapers carry MCC insert
A special Mesa Community College insert will be printed on October 5, 2004, in the *East Valley Tribune*, *Arizona Republic*, and the *East Mesa Independent*. The eight-page full-color insert in tabloid format will run stories, photos, and factual information about MCC. To request a copy, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 480-461-7445.

- *Alumni & Friends* is published by the Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) three times a year for alumni of Mesa Community College.
- Coordinator, Communications and Alumni Relations: **Marcy Snitzer**
marcy.snitzer@mc.maricopa.edu, 480-461-7792
- Assistant, Communications and Alumni Relations: **Jennifer LaForge**
jenner@mail.mc.maricopa.edu, 480-461-7794
- Contributing Writer: **Karen Peters**
karen.peters@mc.maricopa.edu, www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni



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On a recent visit to the Emerald Isle, Judy contacted Ed. At 43, he is now married and the father of a lively 3-year-old named Ellen. When Judy asked Ed to comment on his college experience, Ed responded, "I loved MCC. It was my home away from home. America is the land of opportunity, and it gave me a jump-start in my career. MCC made all the difference in my success."

Alumni Association welcomes new board members

As we begin the 2004-05 academic year, the Alumni Relations Office welcomes five new board members. Last spring, five board members' terms expired, and nominations were collected to fill the vacant positions. The newest members of MCC's Alumni Association board are Amber Farr, Nancy Langdon, Emily Tenney, Erwin Thompson, and Eily VanderMeer. Congratulations to the new board members, and we look forward to working with each of them.

- ### 2004-05 Alumni Board
- F. Rockne Arnett, '64
 - Donna Backhaus, '98
 - Jack Bogle, '76
 - Mary Chavez, '83
 - Amber Farr, '01
 - Leonard Heinrich, '74
 - Debbie Hentges, '75
 - Nancy Langdon, '00
 - Jacob Moore, '97
 - Frank Morales, '92
 - Monika Nathan, '78
 - Diana Occhiuzzi, '69
 - Tony Occhiuzzi, '68
 - Evelyn Plantillas, '67
 - Robert Rhoton, '72
 - Hans Silberschlag, '95
 - Emily Tenney, '02
 - Erwin Thompson, '83
 - David Udall, Chair, '83
 - Eily VanderMeer, '03
 - Louise Zais, '80

Ed O'Neill grew up 100 yards from the Atlantic Ocean in southwestern Ireland. In the summers he fished for lobster, took lifesaving courses, and swam with his family. A highlight of his youth was being picked for the County Kerry Under-18 Irish Football Team. After high school, Ed studied building site management but couldn't find a job. Teaching physical education had always interested Ed, but he didn't pursue this goal until he visited America on holiday. He had decided to attend an American university when a new friend from Arizona suggested a less expensive alternative: Mesa Community College.



Ed O'Neill

To support himself within visa restrictions, Ed had to be creative. He worked in the Health Improvement Center, in the cafeteria (in exchange for food), and also for Maintenance and Public Safety. Ed spent 14 hours a day on campus, then bicycled home to his apartment.

Spotlight on international alum

Irish grass is greener

A special report from Judy Taussig, MCC Advisement Director

When he wasn't working or attending classes, Ed served as president of the International Students Association (1988-1989). During his term, both Ed and the Association won honors as President and Club of the Year, respectively. He said the highlight of his educational experience at MCC was getting a gold medal from President Christiansen as one of the Student of the Year finalists. Ed continued his studies at ASU and earned a bachelor's degree in physical education with a minor in history.

After graduation Ed could have chosen to stay in America, but his heart was still in Ireland. He returned to his homeland, where he needed additional classes in first aid, weight training, and swimming to begin teaching. He was later required to pass an oral Irish language test. Ed taught for seven years and is now the principal of St. Brendan's College Secondary School in Killarney, where he is responsible for 516 students, 39 teachers, and a staff of seven.

MCC Advisement Director Judy Taussig was advisor to the International Students Association during Ed's tenure.



To MCC Alumni:

After two years of planning, Linda B. Rosenthal, president of the Maricopa

County Community College District Governing Board, and Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to create a permanent campus of MCC in downtown Mesa. With the tremendous growth we're experiencing in the East Valley, this new campus will provide greater access to higher education for Mesa residents, eventually bringing 10,000 students to downtown Mesa.

The overarching vision as outlined in the MOU is to enable MCC and the City to develop a "digital downtown" linking education, business, government and entertainment with emerging technologies.

Mayor Hawker calls the MCC Downtown campus an "educational model for community colleges and local governments." Using public dollars for dual purposes yields immense benefits to Mesa residents.

Given some recent confusion in the media, it's important to point out that capital revenue is needed from a bond election to transition MCC from its existing downtown center to phase 1 of a downtown campus. Prop 401 — which is the Maricopa County Community Colleges bond initiative — is on the November 2 ballot. Regardless of the outcome of the election, we will maintain our current presence in downtown Mesa, and we will continue our partnership of four decades with the City in whatever ways we can.

If you have any questions, please call our Office of Institutional Advancement at (480) 461-7446.

Sincerely,

Larry K. Christiansen

WANTED: Nominations for outstanding alumni

The Alumni Relations Office is now accepting nominations for the Alumni Achievement Award and the Outstanding Chapter Service Award. Now in its third year, the MCC Alumni Awards and Recognition program recognizes the accomplishments and service contributions that MCC's alumni make to their professions, their communities, and the college. Awardees will be honored at the Community Recognition Luncheon hosted by MCC President Larry K. Christiansen in the spring.

Nomination information

- Visit the alumni website at www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni to learn more about the awards and recognition program.
- Mail or e-mail your nomination to Marcy Snitzer
Mesa Community College
Office of Alumni Relations
1833 West Southern Avenue
Mesa, AZ 85202
E-mail: marcy.snitzer@mccmail.maricopa.edu

Nominations are due Monday, December 20, 2004.

Shadow Day campaign begins next spring

The MCC Alumni Internship Committee will be launching Shadow Day in February 2005 in conjunction with a national shadow day campaign. If you are willing to be "shadowed" by an MCC student who wants to learn more about your profession, please contact Jennifer at 480-461-7794 or jenner@mail.mc.maricopa.edu. You may also visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni to complete a form online.

MCC offers mentoring opportunities

The MCC Alumni Association plans to launch a mentoring program to place MCC alumni with current students to help provide insight from those who have already attended MCC. To volunteer as a mentor for this new and exciting program, contact Jennifer at 480-461-7794 or jenner@mail.mc.maricopa.edu. You may also visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni to fill out a form online.

Kirk Student Center remodeled

In Spring 2003 the Alumni Relations Office approached MCC's Custom Interior Design class and asked students to submit their best recommendations for displaying the new student government plaques in the Kirk Student Center. The project was taken a step further to include remodeling the Kirk Center lobby, and the students developed and presented their designs to the Alumni Office and the Administration for review.

A design created by student interior designers Eva Putrus and Shelly Abbott was selected for the remodel. "I was both excited and a little apprehensive," Shelly said. "This was our first real project and it was something for our school." Soon after their selection, the student designers began the daunting task of implementing their design. Inspired by the work of Fernand Leger and Pablo Picasso, Eva and Shelly created an energetic environment that promotes collaborative learning, socialization, and a space for relaxation and rejuvenation.

Prior to the remodel, the Kirk Center had insufficient lighting and study spaces, a lack of color, limited seating, and an inefficient furniture plan. The new design called for improved lighting, new furniture and arrangements conducive to individual and group study sessions, walls painted to complement the color of tile and carpet, and adequate seating for the student area. Through an informal survey, Eva and Shelly learned that the students who relaxed and studied in the Kirk Center wanted brighter colors and better lighting.

In addition to the lobby's facelift, other areas of the Kirk Center were remodeled; offices and conference rooms received new carpet, tile, and paint. Conference rooms were further enhanced with new tables, chairs, and framed historical photographs from MCC's archives.



Student government presidents honored

For the past two years, the Alumni Relations Office has been compiling a list of MCC's student government members from 1963 to the present. We did this by researching a variety of sources including student handbooks and yearbooks, issues of MCC's student newspaper the *Mesa Legend*, and minutes from student government meetings. Though we are still missing a few names to make our list complete, we are pleased to announce that we are ready to recognize MCC's student government leaders.



On October 16 MCC will officially recognize and honor each student government president at a reception hosted by MCC Alumni Relations and MCC's president, Dr. Larry K. Christiansen.

On the north and east walls of the Kirk Student Center lobby, each president will have a plaque displaying his or her photo, name, and year(s) of service.

All former members of MCC's student government are invited to attend and celebrate years of service and leadership. For more information, please call the Alumni Relations Office at 480-461-7794.

Seeking past Student Government officers

Are you a past member of MCC Student Government? If so, the Office of Alumni Relations is looking for you. We are creating a "Wall of Fame" to recognize student government presidents (see "Student government presidents honored," in this issue), and we are also compiling a list of all officers who have served in MCC's student government over the years. Our list is incomplete due to outdated contact information. Please call Alumni Relations at 480-461-7794 if you have current contacts for past student government officers.



Seeking alumni band to play at Homecoming

The Office of Alumni Relations is looking for an alumni band to play at this year's Homecoming celebration on October 16. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Alumni Relations at 480-461-7794.



Expand your possibilities ...

The Microsoft® Office Specialist program is the only comprehensive certification program designed to validate desktop computer skills using Microsoft® Office. Certification proves computer literacy, measures proficiency, and identifies opportunities for skills enhancement.

Mesa Community College has been an Authorized Microsoft® Office Specialist testing facility since 2002. The college

offers testing in Word, Access, PowerPoint, and Excel, among others. To date, MCC has administered more than one hundred certification tests to students, faculty, and community members.

Individuals who would like to build on their skills can enroll in classes that will help prepare them for the Microsoft® Office Specialist testing. These classes are available through MCC's Business Dept.

In addition, Mesa Community College has recently become an authorized testing



facility for IC3 (basic computer certification) and CIW (Certified Internet Webmaster). Classes are also available.

For more information, call 480-461-7129, or send an e-mail message to openentry@mccmail.maricopa.edu, or visit this website: www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d07/openentry/mous.htm.

IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT MCC

Below is only a sampling of events planned for this semester. For a complete list of events please visit <http://we.mc.maricopa.edu/events>

OCTOBER 6

Empty Bowls

OCTOBER 7

Psychology Evening Lecture Series
"Getting Motivated to Change Your Habits"

OCTOBER 7-10

Wait Until Dark
Theatre Arts

OCTOBER 16

MCC Homecoming 2004
MCC vs. Glendale Community College

OCTOBER 27-30

The Secret Garden
Musical Theatre

NOVEMBER 3

Psychology Evening Lecture Series
"The Psychology of Mixed Race Identity"

NOVEMBER 4-5

Fall Dance Concert

NOVEMBER 8-19

Art Faculty Show

NOVEMBER 10

Holiday Boutique

NOVEMBER 10

Veterans Rose Garden Dedication

NOVEMBER 20

Rose Show

NOVEMBER 23

Psychology Evening Lecture Series
"Who's Raising Whom? A Parent's Guide to Effective Child Discipline"

DECEMBER 2-5

The Lion in Winter
Theatre Arts

DECEMBER 3-4

Holiday Extravaganza

DECEMBER 10

Musical Revue
Scholarship fundraiser