

THE Bulletin

February 20, 2002

TLCs—Learning About Life

When MCC faculty members **Jonelle Moore, Dr. Brian Dille, Mary Stewart** and **Loretta Kissell** talk about *community*, they're talking about *sharing*. They share their students, their teaching space, and a strong commitment to the notion that students learn better when they learn in a committed, interdisciplinary way—from and with each other.

These four colleagues are creating Teaching and Learning Communities at MCC, connecting General Studies and Education classes. They now have students who are into their second year of the TLC experience. "We are hopeful," Loretta said, "that when we move into Fall 2002, we will have an even larger group and that more of the students will be Education majors."

Brian Dille teaches American Government and Jonelle Moore teaches English 102, a research writing course. Together they teach a class that blends their two courses through shared assignments and opportunities for students to apply what they learn. "My curriculum is tied to Brian's curriculum in that the students are actually practicing what they're learning," Jonelle said. She explained that students' research assignments for her English class are tied to an application of American Government ideas.



Top: Mary Stewart, Loretta Kissell, Jonelle Moore and Brian Dille. Middle: Eleanor Eisenberg and Tom Liddy. Bottom: MCC students at the Arizona Issues Forum.

The students write a research paper and also commit 20 hours of service to the community. By adding 30 more hours, they can complete their service requirement for honors graduation or get an extra credit for service learning.

Loretta teaches public speaking. Students in her class create an information speech that is related to the first writing assignment in Jonelle's class. For this speech, students collect the facts, develop an understanding of the issue, and identify

the problem. Students then write a persuasive speech.

"Writing and speaking are civic skills," Jonelle said, "and both of these require listening, critical thinking, and persuasive and analytical capabilities."

In the overall TLC philosophy, civic skills play an integral role. Mary Stewart, who teaches

Education classes, emphasized the broader sense of community that they are trying to achieve: "We want our students to leave here with a real sense of how important civic engagement is."

One recent opportunity for students to experience civic engagement was the Arizona Issues Forum on January 28, presented by MCCC's Center for Civic Participation, KPHO TV 5, the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and the City of

Phoenix. The topic was "Liberty Versus Security." Students from Jonelle's and Brian's class not only attended the forum but also exchanged questions and answers with the guests: Eleanor Eisenberg, Executive Director of the Arizona Civil Liberties Union; Tom Liddy, a first amendment lawyer, congressional candidate and former member of the U.S. Marine Corps; and County Attorney Richard Romley.

"We want the students to practice civic engagement," Jonelle said. "We tell them

Team, Catch and Employee of the Month

In addition to Catch and Employee of the Month, we now have an award recognizing the Team of the Month for doing an outstanding job, showing initiative, or going above and beyond normal duties. Congratulations to January's winners:



Team of the Month - Cashier Services

During our record enrollment period, they have done an outstanding job in assisting students. They have put in extra hours on a daily basis, especially staying extra late every Friday night to ensure that students are not purged from their classes. While our lines have been out the door (don't tell

the President) and our phones are constantly ringing, they have continued to do an exceptional job! They have also shown tremendous initiative while our Fiscal Tech. II is out on maternity leave.

—Nancy Navarette



Catch of the Month - Jesse LeRoy and Placido Garcia, Public Safety

Two student workers responded to an emergency call for assistance when instructor Paulette Schlosser suffered a massive brain hemorrhage while working in her office on 11/13/2001. The officers were the first security officers on the scene and discovered that Paulette was not breathing and

had no heartbeat. They began CPR immediately and continued CPR until relieved by Mesa paramedics approximately 5 minutes later. Because of the quick response of these two fine officers, Paulette Schlosser's breathing and heartbeat were restored at the hospital, and she would have lived had it not been for the brain hemorrhage that eventually led to her death. As of this date, no one has officially acknowledged the unselfish act of kindness demonstrated by these two fine officers.

—Lynn Bray



Employee of the Month - Elva De Marin Administration/Instruction

During the two and a half weeks of registration, Elva must see 10 people a day who speak only Spanish. She walks them through all the registration and support steps at MCC, including doing advising for them in ESL. She is known throughout the community as the contact person for MCC.

She works late almost every evening doing this, and this is in between her duties for me.

—Rodney Holmes

The following employees were also nominated for these awards: **Registration and Advisement**, nominated by **Rodney Holmes**; **Ken Kuhns**, nominated by **Chas Moore**; **Peggy Johnson**, nominated by **Randi Papke**; and **Marcia Melton**, nominated by **Kate Mohler**.

Thunderbird Athletes Win Big

Mesa Community College football player **Rashad Armstrong** earned the title as 2001 Offensive Player of the Year by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). He scored 16 touchdowns and gained 1,373 yards on 221 carries, breaking Jimmy Smith's 31-year-old rushing record. Rashad gained an additional 260 yards in pass receiving, giving him 1,633 yards in total offense. Currently majoring in Sociology, Rashad is considering offers from Ohio State, Auburn, Oregon, USC, Clemson, Oklahoma and Florida for the upcoming academic year.



In addition to football, fall sports at MCC include Men's and Women's Soccer, Track and Field, Cross Country and Volleyball. The Men's Soccer team concluded the 2001 season with a 17-3 record and won second place in the Arizona Community College Athletic Conference (ACCAC). **Jamon Lifsey** was named ACCAC Player of the Year and First All-American by the NJCAA. The Women's Soccer team concluded the 2001 season with a 21-2 record and is the 2001 ACCAC and Region 1 Championship Team. **Melissa Miller** is the 2001 ACCAC and Region 1 Player of the Year. She also won the title as First Team NJCAA All-American, marking the third consecutive year that a Mesa player has won this award.

Congratulations to **Danny Sanchez**, coach of both the Men's and Women's Soccer teams, who was honored with the ACCAC Coach of the Year title.

Continued from page 1, TLCs

about it and give them opportunities to work with it academically, but the forum was an opportunity for them to actually participate.”

Another example of a participatory learning opportunity is the Model United Nations, in which Brian is heavily involved. This year’s Model UN event took place on Feb. 8 and 9. “We had 70 high school students from four schools,” Brian said. “They were very well prepared, and the level of discourse was much better than it had been in previous years. They didn’t waste any time and launched right into serious debate about global issues.”

Why do we need TLCs?

“In a commuter school like MCC,” Mary said, “there are problems with lack of connection and alienation. We have a vast body of research that says this kind of support (TLCs) socially and academically keeps students in the program and makes all of the assignments more meaningful. Education students are not writing an essay on just anything; they’re writing it about an experience they just had in a third-grade classroom.”

How does the TLC impact the students who are involved?

Jonelle: The students who came back from last year love it! They sit together and collaborate on assignments. They are the participants in the classroom and are more engaged in learning.

Brian: I can tell which students were in the Learning Community last semester. They have a level of comfort that the other students don’t have. They speak out, raise their hands and interrupt me.

Mary: The other students respond with “What’s going on?” They haven’t seen this kind of assertive behavior in their other classes, where everyone is a stranger and you sit there quietly.

Loretta: Students model the kind of behavior that we want, and other students are likely to emulate it. It raises the bar, not because I tell them the bar has to be

raised but because there is a sense of continuity. The students become a part of this wonderful unit that begins to work on its own. They create their own standards and everybody lives up to them.

What challenges come with creating TLCs?

- Informing Advisement and Registration about TLCs so they can direct students to the program
- Identifying teachers who believe in the concept and are willing to participate
- Recruiting and tracking students
- Finding classroom space for co-teaching
- Managing the classroom – Jonelle: “We spend a lot of time developing topics—figuring out with the students what they want to do and how it relates to their work. It’s sometimes slow.”

Brian: “I’m way behind on my syllabus calendar, but I decided to just go with it, because I need to give class time for the students to talk with each other and develop a rapport.”

What are some sideline benefits of this program?

Brian: “This has actually been an effective strategy on my part because Political Science has had a declining enrollment for the last 3 years, so by connecting my class to a required English class, I actually doubled my enrollment.”

Mary: “For the students, it creates economy. They say, ‘Wow, I can share assignments. Great!’ They don’t have to write about their experiences in the classroom *and* gun control; they can just write about the classroom. They’re sharing assignments, literally.”

The four TLC faculty members from MCC will be presenting at the Southwest Learning Communities Conference, Feb. 28-March 1, at the Tempe Mission Palms. Paradise Valley and Chandler-Gilbert community colleges will also be presenting their work.

Red Mountain Ice Cream Social



Top: Assoc. Dean **Yolanda Penley**, **Pat O'Brien** and **John Seims** (Math).

Upper Middle Left: **Emily Dimson** (Science Lab).

Upper Middle Right: **Sheila Popeck** (Administration) and **Patty Kolesky** (Specialized Services).

Lower Middle (foreground): **Bob Sauder** (Maintenance) and **Christina Barrios** (Information Technology).

Bottom: **Sue Blackwell** (Instructional Support) and **Carmen Vigo-Acosta** (Foreign Language).

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Assessment Orientation Day

8 a.m.-6 p.m., CTL Conference Room
Faculty members who volunteered for Assessment Week 2002 may drop by to pick up materials and ask questions about participating.

In Celebration of Black History Month:

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Kawambe-Omwale

African Drum and Dance Theatre Troup (storytelling, dancing, drumming)
Noon-1 p.m., Navajo Room, Kirk Center, S&D campus

Church Gospel Choir Concert

Featuring several local church choirs
Time and place to be announced
Free and open to the public

Thursday, Feb. 21

**Evening Lecture Series,
Psychology Department**

The Psychology of Mixed Race Identity, presented by Dr. Christine Hall
6:40-9 p.m., Navajo Room, Kirk Center, S&D campus

**Friday and Saturday
Feb. 23 and 24**

**Scottish Gathering and
Highland Games**

Highland dancing, athletic competitions, Celtic entertainment, pipe and drum bands, British cars, tasty food and unique Scottish gifts and merchandise. More than 60 clans represented. Lots of activities for the wee ones, including a barrel train ride, petting zoo, and magic show.
For more information, call 602-431-0095 or visit www.arizonascots.com.

Monday, Feb. 25

**MCC Nominations Due for
the MCCC Innovation of
the Year Award**

Contact: Shereen Lerner, 461-7306

**Monday, Feb. 25 through
Friday, March 1**
MCC's 2002

Assessment Week

Visit this Web site to learn more: www.mc.maricopa.edu/orp, then click on "Student Assessment." Also see related article on this page.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

**Governing Board
Regular Meeting**

Contact: Gloria Smith, 731-8889

In Celebration of Black History Month:

**Monday and Tuesday,
Feb. 25 and 26**

Soldiers Without Swords

A documentary video presentation about the history of America's Black press.
Monday, 4-6 p.m. and
Tuesday, 2-4 p.m.
Navajo Room, Kirk Center, S&D campus

Wednesday, Feb. 27

World Language

Awareness Day

10 a.m.-2 p.m., Library Corridor and Amphitheater
Displays, music performances, language booths, demos of online courses in CTL, tours of the new language lab and foreign language films and cultural videos.
Hosted by the Foreign Language Dept. and sponsored by International Education
Contact: Aimee Guerin, 461-7852

In Celebration of Black History Month:

Wednesday, Feb. 27

Mesa Community

College Gospel Choir

7-8:30 p.m., Community Room, RM campus
Light refreshments served after the concert
Free and open to the public

**Thursday, Feb. 28, and Friday and
Saturday, March 1-2 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m.**

Fool's Paradise

A comedy by Peter Coke, directed by Beverly Byrd.
Jane and Catherine have an antique-cluttered house, unpaid bills, and a memory of marriage to the same man, now deceased. His will states they can live in the house if they don't sell its contents. They discover some jewels, and a wily antique dealer gets them to accept a downpayment. From then on, everything they do to rectify matters gets them in deeper.
Astoundingly funny!

Thursday, Feb. 28

Wind Ensemble

8 p.m., MU 14, S&D campus



Psychology faculty member **Skip Pollock** gives assessment during Assessment Week 2001.

Next Week: Assessment

MCC's Sixth Annual Assessment Week is scheduled for Feb. 25 through March 1. Approximately 150 faculty members have volunteered to give student outcomes assessments in almost 200 sections. Five general education outcome areas will be measured in general education classes, with one of the five measures randomly assigned to each class. A workplace skills assessment will be administered in a wide array of career and technical education classes. In all, more than 3,500 MCC students will participate in Assessment Week activities. Completed assessments will be returned to the Office of Research and Planning, where the data will be checked for accuracy, cleaned, and analyzed. By Fall 2002, an annual report of the results will be prepared and widely disseminated throughout the college community.

The success of the assessment program is the result of a unique collaboration that includes a dedicated Faculty Senate Student Outcomes Committee, numerous faculty "clusters" that develop the outcomes and the measures, the staff of the Office of Research and Planning, and support from the Dean of Instruction.

To view IA's recent Special Edition, **Chairs**, with photos and background information on MCC's department chairs and coordinators, visit the IA web site at www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/employees/ia/. Click on "Publications."

The Bulletin is published on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, during the fall and spring semesters, for employees of Mesa Community College. Deadline for submissions is the Monday after publication (for the next issue). Send articles for submission to the Office of Institutional Advancement, e-mail ia@mccmail.maricopa.edu, phone 480-461-7445.

Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85202
The Maricopa County Community College District is an EEO/AA Institution.

