

# THE Bulletin

February 21, 2001

## MCC Hosts Forum on "The Future of Voting"

Through the collaboration of the Maricopa Community Colleges and KPHO/Channel 5, a special forum was held on Jan. 29 at Mesa Community College on "The Future of Voting." Led by KPHO's **Cary Pfeffer**, a panel of elected officials and political consultants discussed this important issue with faculty and students of Mesa Community College and community members. Guest panelists were:

- Betsey Bayless, Arizona Sec. of State,
- Sen. Chris Cummiskey, D-Phoenix,
- Sen. David Petersen, R-Mesa,
- Christa Severns, GrossfeldSeverns, Inc., political consultant,
- Jason Rose, owner, Rose and Co., political consultant.

Prompting this discussion was Florida's recent presidential election turmoil, which focused on voting irregularities and dimpled chads. Is Arizona's situation similar to Florida's? What will the voting process look like in the 21st century? Are we ready for Internet voting?

Sec. of State **Betsey Bayless** pointed listeners to her Web site, [www.sosaz.com](http://www.sosaz.com), which describes an Internet voting demonstration project conducted at a Phoenix precinct last November to explore the possibility of voting online. While panelists seemed to agree that online voting will someday become a reality, they also seemed to share the belief that we're just not ready yet.

Until we are ready for online voting, the state must deal with the system already in place. Ms. Bayless said that five of the state's counties, representing more than 80 percent of the state's population, have a scanning system to read the ballots. The remaining 10 counties, representing less than 20 percent of the state's population, still use the old punch-card system that was the cause of Florida's woes in the recent presidential election.



*Phil Gordon, City of Phoenix councilmember, and Bernie Ronan, Director of MCC's Center for Public Policy, coordinated "The Future of Voting," an issues forum led by Cary Pfeffer of TV Channel 5.*



*A distinguished panel of guests addresses "The Future of Voting." From left to right are the following state officials and consultants: Arizona Sec. of State Betsey Bayless, Sen. Chris Cummiskey, Sen. David Petersen, political consultant Christa Severns, and political consultant Jason Rose. At the far right is Cary Pfeffer from KPHO/Channel 5.*

**Sen. Cummiskey** noted that it would take \$3.5 million to bring Arizona's 10 punch-card counties into the 21st century. A 45-member statewide task force, set in place to make recommendations for Arizona, is suggesting that the state share with the rural governments the cost of upgrading their voting process.

In addition to punch-card systems and online voting, audience members raised several other topics, such as campaign financing, impacts of early voting, "electronic terrorism," wooing disenfranchised voters, and enticing young people and minorities to exercise their right to vote. Following the issues forum, columnist and editorial writer **Robert Robb**, from The Arizona Republic, made a presentation on the Electoral College.

One of the goals in MCC's Strategic Plan 2000-2003 is to "encourage the active participation of faculty, staff, and students in democratic processes, public policy, and community service." MCC has committed to being a leader in promoting civic responsibility within the community and among its own students and employees; hosting forums such

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## MCC's Advisement/Transfer Center Responds to Students

**Judy Taussig** just keeps smiling as she walks amidst the rubble and dust of the Advisement Center's remodeling project. As Director of Instructional Support Services and Student

Development, Judy is well aware that the renovation resolves at least two major enrollment issues: (1) the critical need to provide space for additional advisors and (2) streamlining the student enrollment process by locating the Advisement and Transfer centers under one roof.

Statistics point to the wisdom of a co-location for Advisement and Transfer. In January 2001, Judy said, the Advisement Center serviced 3,619 students, and 79 percent indicated that eventually they plan to transfer to universities. After the renovation, students will be able to complete both advisement and transfer activities without ever leaving the building.

And that's not all. Also shown on the renovation plans are two registration phones, a computer sign-in station to see an advisor, 24 computers that provide student access to the Course Applicability System (see article on CAS), and a cashier station for paying fees and tuition. The new design includes two offices for university representatives who regularly visit MCC to assist with transfers.

One space will be missing from the newly renovated center: a waiting room. Students will sign in on computer to see an advisor, be issued a pager, and then retire to the adjacent outdoor covered patio or the lobby of the Kirk Center until the pager beckons their return. After consulting an advisor about their programs of study and any transfer issues, students may register online at the computers provided for this purpose, or they can register for classes on either of two telephones that connect directly to the Call Center. From the Advisement/Transfer Center's computers, students can apply to any university in the United States, get help with advisement, register for classes, pay tuition, or access CAS.

"One-stop service is a model across the country," Judy said. Combining the Advisement and Transfer functions and providing better computer capabilities for students is not only a move

toward this nationwide trend, but also a direct response to students' requests for improving the MCC advisement process.

MCC's new Advisement/Transfer Center will be finished in early April. The college's own highly skilled carpenters and contractors in Maintenance and Operations will complete the construction work, and Walsh Office Supply will provide the furnishings.

## CAS, a Powerful Tool for Students

The Course Applicability System, also called CAS, is a Web-based application that provides Arizona students with the following:

- A guide showing university equivalent courses for community college course work
- A guide showing how community college course work applies to university degree programs

The objective is to provide transfer planning tools so students can be successful in their objectives at community college, while planning for transfer to a university at some time in the future. The customized guides are based on each student's course work, including completed courses, courses in progress, and courses planned for future semesters.

Using CAS, a student can develop a course work portfolio that may include courses from any of the Arizona public community colleges. The student can then see how the portfolio meets the requirements for various degree programs at the universities. In addition, students can

determine their progress in completing the Arizona General Education Curriculum at Central Arizona College or Pima Community College.



*Judy Taussig, Director of Instructional Support Services and Student Development, stands in the soon-to-be-renovated office space of MCC's new Advisement/Transfer Center.*



*During the Advisement/Transfer Center remodeling project, program advisors have relocated to the Kirk Center. Even though their "offices" on the mezzanine are a bit cramped, advisors do their best to accommodate the students and maintain a light-hearted attitude (bottom, advisor Sherman Forbes). Middle; Pictured with students are program advisors Mischelle Robbins (center) and Sandy Stultz (right).*

# Talk About Fun!

MCC's Foreign Language Dept. is sponsoring its third annual **World Language Awareness Day** on Wed., Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. This event spotlights the 13 languages taught at MCC: American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, ESL, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Activities and displays include the following:

- Performances in various languages and representing different cultures
- The "World Pavilion," where each student receives a special passport to visit different language activity booths
- Displays
- Food sampling
- Door prizes

The performances will be staged in the Kirk Center foyer, and all other activities will be in the Navajo Room. Contact **Eliza Gonzalez**, Foreign Language Dept. Chair, 461-7451, for more information.



*Marshall Trimble—historian, author and folklorist—entertained an attentive audience with both story and song during the February 7-8 Grand Opening of the Southwest Studies Reading Room on the third floor of the Paul A. Elsner Library. With the smooth, easy style of Will Rogers and outfitted like an Old West cowboy in a 10-gallon hat, Mr. Trimble captivated a full house with his informative tales and melodies.*

*Below: Jaime Herrera and Marcia Melton coordinated events for the Grand Opening of the Southwest Studies Reading Room, February 7-8, 2001.*



*In early February, MCC had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Coen Free and a team of colleagues from Konig Willem I College - Hertogenbosch, Netherlands. Pictured below: Netherlands visitors engage in friendly conversation as they await a presentation by Marshall Trimble at the Grand Opening of the Southwest Studies Reading Room on Feb. 8.*



## Holiday Thank-You

With the help of generous employees, departments, and other groups at MCC, the Student Activities Dept. was able to provide meals and/or gifts for 16 families at Thanksgiving and 40 families during the Winter Holidays.

### Thanks to the following individuals:

- Carol Achs
- Yvonne Bardwell
- Alexis Best
- Angela Cissell
- Ann Cox
- Sue Glascoe
- Mandy Harp
- Boots Hunt
- Dolores Jokilehto
- John Mainieri
- Carol Petersen
- Dominique Smith
- Steve Strickland
- Kristie Adamson
- Andrea Beasley
- Doyle Burke
- Judy Christensen
- Sonia Esposito
- Evelyn Hanna
- Autumn Hulke
- Lois James
- Patsy Lobo
- Sue McAleavey
- Penny Powell
- Lori Smith
- Judy Taussig

### Thanks to the following groups:

- Administration of Justice Club
- Aramark
- ASMCC
- Baptist Student Union
- Black Student Union
- Bookstore
- Disability Resources
- Exercise Science & Phys. Ed. Club
- Faculty Senate
- Financial Aid
- Fitness Center
- Institutional Advancement
- MAT
- MECHA Club
- New Frontiers
- Psi Beta Club
- Service Learning
- Sigma Phi Sigma Club
- Social Cultural Dept.
- Student Activities
- Student Nurses Association Club
- Students with a Cause Club

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as the "The Future of Voting" is one of the ways MCC fulfills this commitment. Several college instructors took advantage of this opportunity by attending the forum with their classes.

The commitment to increase civic involvement goes beyond individual community colleges, however. Sharing in this effort is the Citizen Participation Think Group, a voluntary initiative of the Maricopa Colleges and their community partners. The Think Group sponsored the January 29 forum at MCC and has contributed to furthering citizen engagement by initiating similar opportunities districtwide.

## Calendar

**Wed., Feb. 21, President's Lunch/Conversation**, noon to 2 p.m., Kiva Room.  
Topic: Shared Governance.

*Prince Shell Tribute Concert*, 1 p.m., MCC Music Bldg., #43 MU-14, free admission, limited seating. A tribute to longtime jazz pianist/composer/arranger Prince Shell.

**Sat., Feb. 24, Last chance to prune rose bushes** in the MCC/MEVRS Rose Garden from 9 a.m. to noon! Instruction on proper pruning procedures provided. For more information, call Jared Langkilde, 461-7396.

**Sat. & Sun., Feb. 24-25, the 35th Annual Scottish Gathering and Highland Games**, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., MCC Stadium, Southern & Dobson campus. The best in Scottish food, dance, athletics, music and entertainment, re-enactment, piping and drumming. Adults \$12, seniors with AARP card \$9, children 10 and younger \$5. For more information, call 602-431-0095.

**Wed., Feb. 28, World Language Awareness Day**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

### AT THE THEATRE OUTBACK...

**Thurs.- Sat., March 1-3, and Sun., March 4, March 1-3 at 8 p.m.; March 4 at 2 p.m.**

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.*

A Drama by Dale Wasserman, from the novel by Ken Kesey, directed by Gary Stephens. A devil-may-care rogue chooses a short sentence in an airy mental institution over a work assignment in prison. Soon he sees the error of his choice.

**Thurs. & Fri., March 8-9, Spring Dance Concert.**

*The Box Office is open in the Theatre Office (TH1) Monday through Friday from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Phone 461-7170 for tickets and information.*

*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.