

# THE Bulletin

May 9, 2001

One College Two Campuses



2001  
Spring Brunch

Join us in recognizing  
the accomplishments of  
Mesa Community College  
Employees

Friday, May 18th

8:00 a.m.

Navajo Room

Kirk Student Center

## CONTINUING IN DISCOVERY

**Rosa Metzgar's** dream was to someday get a college education, but along the way, life happened—two children, a stint as a single parent, bills to pay, commitments. “After the kids get through high school,” she promised herself, “then I’ll go back to school and earn a degree.”



On May 18, Rosa will be not only fulfilling her initial dream, but also taking her place on the platform as Commencement speaker for the Class of 2000-2001. Rosa pursued the honors program at MCC, which requires 15 credit hours in honors classes, as well as participation in a service-learning project. She recently joined Phi Theta Kappa and will transfer in the fall to ASU, Barrett Honors College, where she will major in Communication and minor in Business.

A native Californian, Rosa grew up among both redwoods and grape orchards. As an adult, she moved with her children and new husband to the East Valley and enrolled at MCC. Rosa admits that as a returning student she felt nervous about getting into the swing of homework again and attending classes with younger students. She quickly learned that age isn’t a big deal—single or married, children or not. “We all just accept each other,” she said.

Rosa considers her time at Mesa Community College an excellent investment. “My education at MCC has boosted my confidence, and I really appreciate the teachers,” Rosa said. “They try to bring out the best that is in you, to help you grow and achieve.” Through her French class with **Maria Gardeta-Healey**, she took advantage of a one-month opportunity to study in France. Rosa said she learned not only the language and culture, but also a lot about herself. From **Donna Benson's** Environmental Geology class, Rosa discovered a life-long learning tool, the use of “concept maps,” which help to identify relationships among concepts in new material, thereby speeding the learning process.

The procedure for selecting the Commencement speaker goes like this: A letter is sent to students with the highest GPAs in the graduating class, inviting them to prepare a 5-minute speech and then present it to the other participants, as well as to faculty on the Graduation Committee. The students and faculty rank each of the speakers. Commencement speech coach **Erin Rawson**, from the Communication Dept., said every single participant, student and faculty alike, listed Rosa Metzgar as their No. 1 choice to represent the Class of 2000-2001.

## Graduation Day Activities

### Friday, May 18, MCC Graduation Day

- *Student Rehearsal*  
7 a.m., Clock Tower
- *Year-End Employee Brunch/Recognition*  
8 a.m., Navajo Room, Kirk Center
- *Platform Dinner*  
6 p.m., Kiva Room, Kirk Center
- *Faculty Reception*  
6:30 p.m., Patio East of Kirk Center
- *Graduation Ceremony*  
8 p.m., Center of Campus
- *Student Reception*  
9:30 p.m., Navajo Room, Kirk Center



### Art Show Displays Student Talent

The Presidential Purchase Award (shown above) for the 2001 Student Art Show went to **Aaron Holley** for his charcoal drawing entitled "Scribble." Each year the college buys one piece from the Show, called the Presidential Purchase, to be displayed at MCC. Student winners were recognized at a Reception and Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 18.

## An "Out Of This World" Experience At MCC

No one refers to the new Life Sciences building as "Area 51," but according to faculty member **Linda Wegener**, "alien investigations" are being conducted at this site. Youthful, inquisitive minds have been invited to MCC to learn about the inner workings of a biological creature that some of them have never before encountered: a squid. For students who may be averse to "dissection," Linda sensitively refers to the exercise as an extra-terrestrial exploration.

On April 18, eight middle school students and two instructors joined Linda for a campus tour and lecture, followed by lunch at the cafeteria and a lab session with Mesa Community College students. This up-close peek at a college campus helps to make young students, as well as their teachers, aware of the resources at MCC. Linda urged the middle school teachers to

bring students who are not necessarily the brightest or most at risk, but the ones who are excited about science. "We are trying to get students more interested in biology as a career," she said.

In keeping with the title "alien investigations," Linda's laboratory learning approach is similar to one that might be used on a creature of unknown origin. The students talk about the systems necessary to sustain life, and they incorporate hypothesis building into their

discovery process. Why is the creature made the way it is inside? Which systems bring in oxygen, burn fuel, or carry on the species? "It's about what makes sense," Linda said. "Nothing is right or wrong; instead we ask 'Did our hypothesis make sense, and did we arrive at logical conclusions?'"

Linda's program for middle school students is part of a much broader approach to improving education in biology for grades K-12. The Governor's Strategic Plan for Economic Development (GSPED) has spawned 13 clusters, one of which is the "Bio Industry" group. Among the stakeholders in this group are Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, businesses that employ biological engineers, bankers, venture capitalists, and so on. The GSPED Bio Industry cluster received a School-to-Work grant to improve biology education in grades K-12. This grant helps to support Linda's extra-curricular work at MCC and even contributes to the purchase of lab equipment for participating schools, but it does not pay for Linda's time. She is a volunteer.

Linda offers workshops, gives lectures, leads campus tours for visiting students, creates shadowing opportunities, teaches high school students about new DNA technology, and provides hands-on laboratory experiences for aspiring biologists. She noted that the activities involving middle and high school students have become a successful recruiting tool for MCC. "Our visiting middle school students enjoy their experience on campus so much that they are ready to skip high school and enroll at Mesa Community College."



## Patricia Cardenas-Adame -Practical, Versatile, Visionary

On a map, trace the jagged southern border of Texas defined by the Rio Grande to the town of Laredo. About 30 minutes to the east is Mirando City, population 250, birthplace of MCC's new Associate Dean of Student Activities and Virtual Services, **Pattie Cardenas-Adame**. In this small barrio, Pattie graduated from a four-room high school as valedictorian in her class of 12. She noted, with a smile, that the even gender split—six boys and six girls—worked well for school dances.

Pattie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education from Texas A&I, a stand-alone college that later became Texas A&M at Kingsville. While at school, she met her husband, a physician who now teaches Emergency Room procedures to residents, medical students, nurses, and technicians at Maricopa's County Hospital. Pattie's pursuit of a master's degree in Human Resources Management led her to Emmanuel College in Boston. As a lifelong learner and one who recognizes the value of technological opportunities, she is now earning a doctorate in Higher Education Administration (online) from Capella University in Minnesota. Pattie has always worked in the academic realm, holding career positions both in Human Resources and Student Support Services.



Pattie enjoys varied leisure-time activities. She and her husband share an interest in racing "Open-Wheeled Formula Continentals," which are sports car club vehicles built by engineers. She participates as both spectator and racer. Pattie serves on the pit crew,

as caterer, and even umbrella girl—anything that needs to be done. A quieter passion for Pattie is her quilting. Behind the desk in her Kirk Center office, she proudly displays a quilt made from upholstery fabric scraps. Pattie follows a seasonal clock for quilt making: In the summer, when it's warm, she pieces the quilt together. In winter she does the stitching. At this stage, layers of fabric and batting cover the quilter as she works, so it is more comfortable to stitch in cooler weather.

While "Associate Dean of Student Activities" is a straightforward description of Pattie's new role, the "Virtual Services" portion of her title is not so clear-cut. Pattie explained that Virtual Services could be anything, even high-tech opportunities that are still in our future. The challenge is to ensure that students will have these services available to them. "Students don't care what's happening behind the scenes; they care what's happening up front," she said. "We need to make sure we are flexible and ready for change."



*Nanette Andro, Copy Center/Mailroom*

### Catch Of The Month

The All-Arizona Academic Program was coordinated by the staff of Institutional Advancement and involved a great deal of copy work and many mailings, both before and after the event. The staff of the Copy Center was extremely helpful during this hectic time, particularly **Nanette Andro**, who went out of her way to be of help. A mailing to the presidents of all the community colleges in the state had to be sent by a certain date but was taken to the Copy Center after the mail had been picked up. Nanette volunteered to take the mail directly to the post office to ensure a timely delivery. Her customer service skills and her assistance are greatly appreciated.

### TENNIS TEAMS PLACE AT THE TOP IN REGIONAL PLAYOFFS



In recent Region 1 Playoffs, the MCC Men's Tennis Team ranked 2nd Place and the Women's Tennis Team ranked No. 1. Congratulations to the champion Women's Team (above). Back row, left to right: **Tiffany Bingham, Elena Zlateva Heidi Martin, Jill Galvan,** and head coach **Penny Powell**. Front row, left to right: **Kristin Buchanan, Laura Goutcher, Stephanie Polito,** and **Lancy Carr**.



Congratulations also to the Men's Team (above). Back row, left to right: **Tom Young,** head coach **Becky Opoien,** and **Ted Yeager**. Front row, left to right: **Josh Cahalan, Kevin Clark,** and **Ryan O'Connell**.



## **RED MOUNTAIN BOOKSTORE PLANNED FOR EFFICIENCY —NOT BROWSING**

When visitors look at the space devoted to the bookstore at the Red Mountain Campus, they might comment about the lack thereof. But Red Mountain's bookstore is designed as a clerk-service area, not a browsing store.

"It is built on an efficiency-service concept to aid the students in getting the

books they need with a minimum of confusion or waiting in line," said

**Jesse De Anda**, Associate Dean of Student Services. "Students then can spend their time studying or reading in the Cyber Café, while someone else gathers together their textbook orders," De Anda said. "This store,"

he added, "is a distribution center, not a roaming and browsing type of bookstore."

Students will be able (once they get their class schedules) to drop off an order and either wait or pick it up within the next 24 hours. Students may also order their books, pay for them online, and come by later to pick them up. The essential college classroom items, such as pens, paper and notebooks, will also be available at the store.

At Red Mountain, the decision was made to earmark more precious space to student-use areas and less to a vast traditional college bookstore.



*Lynn Keeling and Jesse De Anda chat at Red Mountain's bookstore counter.*



## **MCC Celebrates Center & Courtyard Opening**



*Governing Board Member Linda Rosenthal joins President Larry Christiansen, Faculty Senate President Jeff Andelora, and Dean Brian Johnson in cutting the ribbon for the opening of the new and remodeled Advisement/Transfer Center and the Kirk Center Courtyard on Thursday, May 3. Also on the program for the opening were Vice Chancellor Anna Solley, President Arnette Ward (former MCC dean), Cultural Science Faculty Jack Peterson, ASMCC Secretary Stacie Jackson, Horticultural Faculty Cindy Odgers, Director of Building and Grounds Rudy Mendez, and Director of Information Technology Bill DeHaan.*



*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](mailto:ia@mccmail.maricopa.edu), phone 480-461-7445.