



THE THUNDERBIRD SUN

"There are only two forces that can carry light to all the corners of the globe... the sun in the heavens and the Associated Press down here."

- Mark Twain

MCC INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

MAY 2021 | NEWSLETTER



MESA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear MCC Students:

I am pleased to convey this letter for the May edition of the "Thunderbird Sun", a publication of the International Education Office produced especially for you—our international students!

In this newsletter, you will find useful information, guidance, advice and information on important dates. Please be sure to read all the articles and send us any questions!

We want you to stay informed and please always CHECK AND READ YOUR EMAILS!!!!

We know you have a lot of work and reading, but we want to ensure that we keep you informed, so please read all the emails we send you!

On April 7, the International Education Office hosted the "Spring Cultural Festival" to celebrate the arrival of spring and a number of important international holidays and occasions. Among these were the Qing Ming Festival, Easter, the Hindi New Year, the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan, the birthday of the Buddha, Passover, Nowruz and other holidays.

In the Festival, we presented music and dance performances from 20 countries of the world. We also received greetings from 20 MCC alumni from Asia, Africa and South America. We also had a fashion show and specially-produced performances featuring Mexican folk dancing and fashion; Mariachi music; in addition to performances from Borneo in Indonesia featuring members of the Dayak tribe and its traditions; A Peruvian dancer; a Bangladeshi dancer and a Vietnamese singer.

In addition, there were mini tours of countries in Africa, South America and the Middle and Far East. If you would like to receive a recording of the event, please email Ashai.Thomas@mesacc.edu.

Finally, as we approach the end of the semester, please let us know if you need any assistance. Please keep us informed and send any questions or developments to your advisor or to questions@mesacc.edu.

Best wishes,

Aziz Alhadi
Director, International Education
Aziz.Alhadi@mesacc.edu
480-461-7753



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

A new face is joining the MCC International Education IE team of advisers. Joy White joins us after retiring from ASU a year ago. She has worked in the field of international education for over 25 years. She brings with her valuable expertise in SEVIS compliance for F-1 and J-1 visa matters, Sponsor student relations, student advocacy, critical incident management, student organization advisory, and many others.

As part of the IE Team, Joy will primarily provide support to F-1 student advising and other IE coordinated programs and events. Her past ASU connection will assist current MCC students in their future transfer plans to ASU as well as a resource to current ASU students who are concurrently taking MCC courses. Joy hails from the Philippines and speaks Tagalog and other Filipino dialects. She will be an additional language and cultural resource to the IE team.

International education and student advocacy is Joy's passion in life. Interacting with students from all over the world was what she missed the most when she left ASU. Her strongest motivation to return to work is to be with students again. As such, she is committed to be of service to the MCC international student population and strive to the best of her ability to make a difference - one student, one world at a time.



Welcome Joy!

My name is Tien Nguyen. I was born and raised in Danang, Vietnam. I am an international student at MCC, as well as student staff in the International Education (IE) office.

I came to the U.S. when I was in high school as an international student. It was a huge change for me! I transferred from Tran Phu High School in Danang, Vietnam to Marcos De Niza High School in Tempe, Arizona. After high school graduation, I transferred to MCC to pursue my associate degree in Business. Here at MCC, I have met a lot of friends from around the world, all with unique cultures. I get to learn a lot from each one of them about their own country, culture, lifestyle, and people. This has opened my eyes to the world and inspired me to travel to all these countries around the world in the future.

Studying in the U.S. is a great opportunity that helped me get out of my comfort zone. The experience has impacted me a lot as an introverted person, not typically socializing. I have somehow become more open to others. I get to see a whole different world compared to what I used to live in: different culture, different lifestyle, different people, etc. Like many other international students, I had a really hard time facing and adapting to the changes at the beginning.

However, I was able to break my barrier and gain many great experiences during my journey studying in the U.S. Being an international student has made me who I am today!

While working at the IE Office, I happened to receive a job assignment to create a flyer for an event. In order to complete this project, I learned about using Canva to create promotional materials. I developed an interest in using and creating documents in this graphic design platform and started laying out this newsletter for the office. It's been a great learning experience and I hope to use this skill in my future career!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Vaccination Appointment

Use our online appointment application to locate a vaccination event and schedule an appointment

[Book Appointment](#) →

Effective March 24, registration at Arizona's state-operated COVID-19 vaccination sites in Maricopa, Pima and Yuma counties are open to all Arizonans and international students, ages 16 and older. Appointments are available at <https://podvaccine.azdhs.gov>

Information about all vaccination sites across Arizona can be found at azhealth.gov/findvaccine. Those without computer access or needing extra help registering can call 1-844-542-8201 to be connected with someone who can assist.



Start planning for summer and fall classes.

Find a class is now open!

classes.sis.maricopa.edu

REGISTER FOR SUMMER AND FALL!

Ready to tackle your goals?

Register for Summer and Fall 2021 classes!

mesacc.edu



SOS: STUDENTS OFFERING SUPPORT

FRIDAYS FROM 12:00-1:00 PM | [LINK](#) TO SOS MEETING

Every Friday at 12 pm, your Student Ambassadors will be online to answer questions, offer support, or just to chat! Join them through Google Meet by using [this link](#).

The MCC Student Ambassadors are here for you! Stop by and say HI! We're all in this together and it's so important to get engaged on campus, develop friendships and connections to your peers. Get to know some of our MCC student leaders. They know a thing or two, so feel free to ask your questions about being an MCC student!

Mesa Community College
Student Life & Leadership
Presents

S.O.S.

STUDENTS OFFERING SUPPORT

Want to learn more about MCC and the opportunities that Student Life offers? Come hang out with our student ambassadors! Different topics will be discussed every Friday at noon. Everyone is welcome to join!

Come join us every Friday at 12pm
the link for the meeting is
<http://meet.google.com/nqe-bsje-ijq>
or
Join by phone
(US) +1 315-642-7340 PIN: 288 151 353#

 **MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AAE institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District. The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8400. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit <http://www.maricopa.edu/news>

UPCOMING EVENTS

We Care Wednesday is a **food distribution** that takes place on the first Wednesday of every month at the Southern/Dobson campus and the third Wednesday of every month at the Red Mountain campus. The distribution happens from **10 am-12 pm**. The food distributions are open to all students and community members in need of food assistance:

- **Drive-thru service.** A volunteer will place food in your trunk or vehicle. (Walk-up service is available for those without vehicles.)
- **Masks are required.** If you are feeling any cold or flu symptoms, please stay home and seek medical treatment.
- **Southern Dobson: Located in the Southwest parking lot.** Please enter from Dobson Road onto Solar Way at the Southern and Dobson campus.
- **Red Mountain: Located in the Red Mountain Way Circle.** Please enter from McKellips Rd and proceed straight through the stop sign. Distribution takes place in the former Bus Stop circle near the library.

Southern/Dobson Date: May 5
Red Mountain Date: May 19

WE CARE WEDNESDAYS
DRIVE-THRU FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION AT MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SOUTHERN/DOBSON CAMPUS 10 AM-12 PM <i>Or until supplies last</i>	RED MOUNTAIN CAMPUS 10 AM-12 PM <i>Or until supplies last</i>
Jan 6 Mar 3	Jan 20 Mar 17
Feb 3 Apr 7	Feb 17 Apr 21
May 5	May 19* <i>Tentative</i>

1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa
 Enter on Solar Way off of Dobson Road

7110 E. McKellips Rd., Mesa
 Enter on Red Mtn Way off of McKellips Road

FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE IN NEED OF FOOD ASSISTANCE

UNITED FOOD BANK

A volunteer will place food in your trunk or vehicle. Walk-up service is available for those without vehicles. MASKS ARE REQUIRED.

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer For more information call (480) 461-7285
 MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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PSI BETA TOY DONATION DRIVE

May 4 | 10AM - 12PM
At the Southern/Dobson Campus
(and virtual)

Psi Beta Honor Society is collecting donations of new toys and stuffed animals for the Mesa Fire Department to help children dealing with trauma.

This will be a drive-through donation happening near the MCC Planetarium.

If you'd like to purchase items off of an Amazon Wish List to be delivered directly to the organization, please click [THIS LINK](#).

Psi Beta Honor Society Donation Drive!
 Virtual & In person Donation Event

In-person collections will take place at the Southern & Dobson Mesa Community College Campus!

Thursday: April 29th
 4-6pm
 And the following week
 Tuesdays: May 4th - 10th
 10am-12pm

WANTED -NEW- TOYS •STUFFED ANIMALS

Simply drive up with your donations in your trunk or back seat for contactless retrieval by our volunteers!
 All donations received will go to the Fire Department to help children dealing with trauma!

You can give online as well!
 Scan this QR code to view how to donate virtually!

Map Donation Link

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UPCOMING EVENTS

STUDENT CLUB MEETING TIMES

Will Be Updated as info becomes available

To sign up for Clubs, click [THIS LINK](#), or contact club directly.



- **Math Club:** Every other Tuesday at 3 pm starting Feb 2 ([Link](#) password: mccmathclub) ([FB Group](#))
- **Geology Club:** Every other Tuesday, (2/23) at 4 pm ([Link](#)) ([Facebook](#))
- **Enthusiastic Sobriety Club:** Wednesdays at 12 pm ([Link](#)) ([Flyer](#))
- **Psi Beta (Psychology):** Wednesdays at 12 pm ([Link](#))
- **Student Entrepreneur Club:** Wednesdays at 2 pm ([Link](#))
- **Student Support Foundation:** Wednesdays at 4 pm ([Link](#))
- **Philosophy Club:** First and third Thursdays at 12 pm ([Link](#))
- **Intertribal Student Organization/AISES:** Thursdays at 1 pm ([Link](#))
- **ASMCC Student Senate:** Thursdays at 2 pm ([Link](#))
- **Educators Rising:** Thursdays at 2 pm (check for summer schedule)
- **Computer Science Club:** Every other Thursday (starting Feb 18) at 5:00 pm (click [here](#) for info)
- **Aliento @ MCC:** Every other Friday at 1:00 pm starting February 12 ([Link](#))
- **Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC):** Fridays at 2 pm ([Link](#))



Request your food today!

Every week students can order a food bag filled with basic food pantry items. Hygiene products and school supplies will also be available. Curbside services are available at both the Red Mountain and Southern and Dobson campuses. Curbside services need to be scheduled by noon the day before your pick-up.

Southern and Dobson Campus

Access the Southern and Dobson pickup from the Library Entrance east of Dobson Road

Tuesdays: 10 am-12 pm (schedule curbside service by noon on Monday)

Thursdays: 4 pm-6 pm (schedule curbside service by noon on Wednesday)

Red Mountain Campus

The Red Mountain pickup site is at the Red Mountain Way (bus stop by the flagpole) in front of the Mesquite building

Wednesdays: 11 am-1 pm (schedule curbside service by noon on Tuesday)

Click [HERE](#) to request your Food/Hygiene/School Supply bag. Would you like to receive text reminders about the Mesa Market and We Care Wednesdays? Text the code **@MesaMarket** to the number 81010 (or [click here](#)) to be added to a Remind group

THE UNIVERSITY STUDIES ABROAD CONSORTIUM ACADEMIC LECTURE SERIES

USAC has been traveling around the world visiting their study abroad programs and recording lectures for their monthly Academic Lecture Series. Feel free to tune in!

Bengaluru, India: The Power of Truth & Non-Violence: Gandhi, Past & Present

Wed., May 26, 9 a.m. PST

The lecture focuses on Mahatma Gandhi's life and legacy, with special reference to his technique of Satyagraha and Ahimsa, which he thought of as perhaps the mightiest instrument on earth.

[Click here for detailed description & to register](#)

RECORDING OF SPRING CULTURAL FESTIVAL

We hope that you were able to join us on April 7 for International Education's Spring Cultural Festival featuring music, dance, and greetings from around the world.

If you were unable to join us or would like to view the festival again, here's your chance! If you have ideas for a future cultural festival, please send them our way!!

[WATCH NOW!!!!](#)

<https://youtu.be/Sl6tsRrWW6Y>



Congratulations MCC Spring Graduates

Name	Country of Citizenship	Associate Degree Awarded
Mei Zhao	China	Business
Anny Torres Gallego	Colombia	Construction Management
Shitong Gui	China	Elementary Education
Bo Sung Kim	Korea, Republic of	Graphic Design
Hien Tran	Vietnam	Business
Seung Jae Jeon	Korea, Republic of	Business
Mina Kim	Korea, Republic of	Business
Njideka Nwalor	Canada	Nursing
Gean Pierre Fernandez Perez	Peru	Computer Science
Mohd Nour Abu Ghazal	Jordan	Construction Management



IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR F-1 STUDENTS

By Jennifer Vinca

Class Registration

Class registration is now open for summer and fall semester! Register now to get the classes you need at the times you want! If you need to know your required classes for next semester, please submit the online advising request: [Pre-Advising Worksheet](#).

Graduation Deadlines

Do you plan to graduate this year? Graduation does not happen automatically! You must submit a graduation application before the deadline:

Application Deadlines:

- Spring 2021 - **March 1** (*even if you missed it, you still need to submit the application!*)
- Summer 2021 - **June 1**
- Fall 2021- **November 1**

Please read the instructions on the Enrollment Center's website for the Steps to Graduation <https://www.mesacc.edu/graduation/steps-graduation>

OPT Employment Authorization

If you will graduate this spring or summer (May or August 2021), you can apply for OPT (Optional Practical Training) employment authorization in your field of study for up to 12 months. The first step is to apply for graduation (see above), and then submit the online form: [Optional Practical Training I-20 Request](#).

Travel Signatures - if you are currently in your home country and planning to return in person for the fall semester, or traveling outside the US this summer, you can request a travel signature to reenter with the online form: [Travel Signature Request](#)

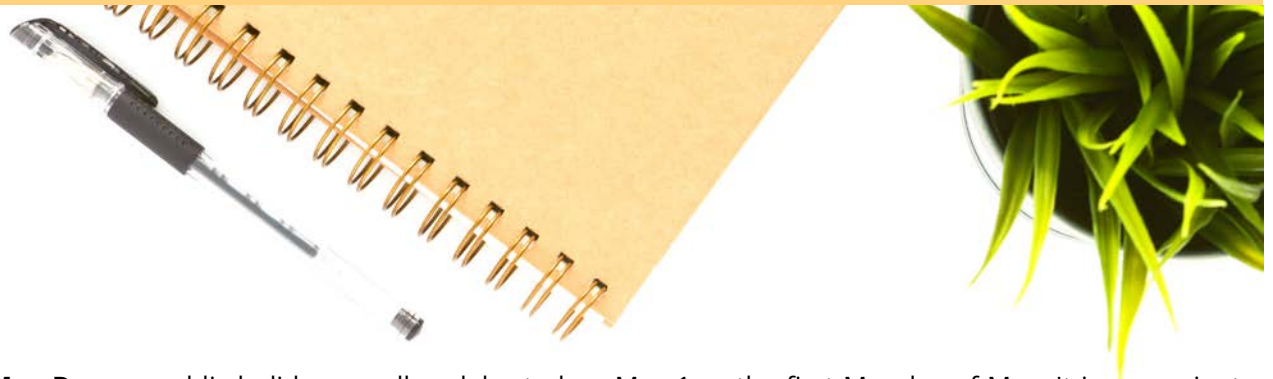
Quarantine

Please see CDC travel guidelines to determine if and how long you should quarantine after your arrival to the U.S.



Holidays During the Month of May

By Yvonne Schmidt



- May 1** **May Day** - a public holiday usually celebrated on May 1 or the first Monday of May. It is an ancient festival of spring and a current traditional spring holiday in many European cultures. Dances, singing, and cake are usually part of the festivities.
- May 5** **Cinco de Mayo** - an annual celebration held on May 5 to commemorate the Mexican Army's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla, on May 5, 1862. More popularly celebrated in the United States than in Mexico, the date has become associated with the celebration of Mexican-American culture. Cinco de Mayo is sometimes mistaken for Mexico's Independence Day, the most important national holiday in Mexico, which is celebrated on September 16.
- May 6** **National Day of Prayer** - an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". The President is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.
- May 9** **Mother's Day** - The modern holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1907.
- May 12** **International Nurses Day** - an international day observed around the world each May 12 (the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth), to mark the contributions that nurses make to society.
- May 12-13** **Eid al-Fitr** also called the "Festival of Breaking the Fast", - a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.
- May 15** The **International** issues **Day of Families** provides an opportunity to promote awareness of relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.
- May 24** **Victoria Day** - a federal Canadian public holiday celebrated on the last Monday preceding May 25. Initially in honor of Queen Victoria's birthday, it has since been celebrated as the official birthday of Canada's sovereign. It is informally considered to be the beginning of the summer season in Canada.
- May 25** **Africa Day** (formerly African Freedom Day & African Liberation Day) - the annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organization of African Unity on May 25 1963. It is celebrated in various countries on the African continent, as well as around the world. The organization was transformed into the African Union on July 9, 2002 in Durban, South Africa, but the holiday continues to be celebrated on May 25.
- May 31** **Memorial Day** (observed on the last Monday in May) - a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Ways to Learn or Improve a New Language

By Ashai Thomas

As a linguist and an English Language teacher, I have explored several ways of how someone can improve their language goals. No matter how old you are, there is a simple way, that is to do things that you like to do! In my opinion and many of my English colleagues, seeing that exposing yourself to another language and culture by doing so with the activities that you already like to do will help train your brain to learn and retain in two or even more languages.

Spanish is my second language and while learning the language was very difficult at first, I would only use and practice inside the classroom. However, once I started to practice my Spanish in every activity such as watching movies and TV shows, speaking with people that are native to the language to pick up on how they pronounce words phonetically, listening to different genres of music in the Spanish language and of course, doing my Spanish homework, it became easier. By doing these activities, I would slowly change my current English routine to Spanish, such as changing the subtitles. However, what I found most helpful in improving my new language skills was completely exposing myself to a culture and being comfortable in making mistakes. When you are not afraid of correcting your mistakes, speaking and comprehension will improve. Besides gaining social skills in learning a new language, here are some other resources that you can utilize for your first steps: Duolingo, Memrise, Busuu, Babbel, Rosetta Stone, Mondly, Triplingo and Hello Talk.



Quote of the Month

Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.

— Anaïs Nin

