

## 2006 East Valley Breakfast with Governor Napolitano Safe. Strong. Prosperous.



*Governor Napolitano*

That's the vision Governor Janet Napolitano set forth for the state of Arizona as she spoke to audience members attending the 2006 East Valley Breakfast with Governor Napolitano at Mesa Community College on Jan. 17. The event, jointly hosted by the East Valley Partnership, the East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance, and MCC, drew local educators, business leaders, and city officials.

Napolitano assured the crowd that "the state of the state of Arizona is strong," and resolved to keep it that way.

"My vision for Arizona is to create a state that is safe, strong, and prosperous, not just for ourselves, but for our children's children, and the children after them," Napolitano said.

The governor listed several things she has asked the Legislature to do this year to achieve a safer Arizona, including:

- \* New domestic violence programs.
- \* Improved sex-offender tracking methods.
- \* Stronger methamphetamine laws.
- \* Increased Arizona-Mexico border enforcement.

Napolitano emphasized the role education plays in building a strong state. She said it was time to increase not only college funding on the operational side, but to also increase the amount of state aid that we provide students.

"We have a huge new generation of Arizonans coming through our school system and we need to have the capacity at our community colleges and universities for those students," Napolitano said.

The governor wrapped up her speech by discussing prosperity and the need for a vision of a 21st-century economy. Joint projects by public and private sectors will provide money for innovative research purposes. Tax breaks to small businesses will help the health care crisis. For struggling families, Napolitano spoke of a three-day sales tax holiday on back-to-school clothing, supplies, and up to \$1,000 worth of computer equipment.

"Safe, strong, and prosperous," Napolitano said. "If we think that way about Arizona and think about Arizona's place in the world, we will be able to keep our eye on the long-term vision that will give us a proud legacy to leave the next generation."

## MCC songwriters perform at local coffeehouse

Novice songwriters now have a place to try out their songs in front of a live audience, thanks to Mesa Community College's Music Business Program and Luis Prado, owner of Into the Bean Coffee House on Southern Avenue.



On the fourth Friday of every month, Luis turns his stage over to a diverse group of local songwriters who perform folk, alternative rock, country music, and everything in between. The event features all original music and although most of the songwriters are from MCC, the event is open to any songwriter in the community.

“Our goal is to bring it out into the community and build partnerships and open new horizons,” said Honesty Sundin, an MCC student intern who works with faculty member Kristina Makris in MCC’s Music Business Program.

Kristina said the laid back atmosphere at the coffeehouse makes performers feel comfortable, and MCC provides a guest songwriter every month who opens up the show by discussing personal insights into their songwriting experiences.

Published songwriter Doug Durant from MCC’s Music Department was the featured guest last month. His friendly and

casual banter set the stage for MCC students Scott Wilcox and Jonah Nelson, both of whom impressed audience members with polished songs and performances.

“Everyone comes in successful and leaves successful,” said Kristina, who expressed encouragement and enthusiasm as she watched each performer. “It’s not about the performance, it’s about the song.”



Doug Durant

Luis, who opened his coffeehouse across from MCC about a year ago, brought his own brand of humor and music to the stage near the end of the evening. As a former certified public accountant, Luis often lends a hand to students struggling with math homework as they

sit in his coffeehouse sipping cappuccino. He said he was pleased and excited when MCC approached him to help host the program.

“We’re neighbors, and as neighbors, we should help each other out,” Luis said.

**MCC’s Songwriters Night is held the fourth Friday of every month at 7 p.m. Songwriter sign-up is at 6:30 p.m. Into the Bean Coffee House is located at 1710 W. Southern Ave. between Dobson and Longmore roads, next to Cheba Hut. For more information, visit <http://www.intothebean.com>.**

## MCC in the News



Is your department offering a new program or service? Do you know of a MCC student, faculty, or staff who has overcome incredible obstacles or is serving the college and community in a unique way?

The Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) would like to know!

Two areas of responsibility within IA are media relations and internal communications. We are constantly looking for great stories to share with our internal and external communities, but we need your help in finding them.

To send a suggestion, click on the “Submit your story here!” button that appears in each issue of The Bulletin or you can contact either Marcy Snitzer or Heather Miles.

Once your suggestion is received, IA will gather additional information and identify the best communication vehicle, whether it be a press release or calendar submission to the local media, an article in The Bulletin, or an article submission to the President’s Weekly Communiqué or the Mesa Legend.

Timing is critical. Did you know, for example, that many newspapers expect calendar items at least two weeks in advance? The sooner IA knows about a great story or event, the more effectively we can get the word out. Of course, not all suggestions will be published immediately...some ideas may be held to be part of a larger story at a later date or to coincide with other activities.

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Links that provide deadlines for MCC's internal publications and general timelines for submitting items to the local media are provided at the bottom of this article.

"IA is always looking for ways to promote the college," said Sonia Filan, Director of Institutional Advancement. "A variety of story options helps us to more effectively promote the college through media and communications."

Sample story ideas to send to Institutional Advancement

- Student, faculty, and staff success stories (overcoming obstacles)
- Service projects that impact students or the community
- New programs, services, or partnerships
- Collaborations between campus departments or community partners

- Appointments to national level boards
- National and regional awards or first-time community college recipient
- Award winning programs
- Newly funded grant projects
- Publication of books or articles

Schedules for MCC's internal publications:

<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/employees/ia/AlumniCom/schedules.html>

Media deadlines and lead times:

<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/employees/ia/MediaRelations/deadlines.html>

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## International Ed student Lora Ma

Lora Ma is one of many international students at Mesa Community College who not only tackle the typical demands of freshman year, but also cope with overcoming language barriers while adapting to an unfamiliar educational system far away from home.

For Lora, 18, home is thousands of miles away in Chengdu, China. Lora says she is eager to make the most of the educational opportunities offered in the United States, which are more plentiful and diverse than in China.

"Due to the large population in China, everyone is very competitive," said Lora, who estimates that typical students in her country devote about three-quarters of their lives to studying. Students must pass an entrance test to be admitted to a university and only 50 percent of students in China are able to attend college.



*Lora Ma*

Although Lora was educated almost entirely in China, she began traveling to the U.S. from China twice a year from the time she was seven years old. Between 1999 and 2001, her father, George Ma, was involved with the Chengdu Business Management Training Project at MCC. The program provided six delegations of Chinese citizens with three months of customized training in language and management skills.

Lora decided to attend MCC on the advice of John Lewis, a family friend and former project manager for the Maricopa Community College District. John recommended MCC as a starting point for Lora, partly because she lacked an American transcript and was unfamiliar with the education system in the U.S. At MCC, Lora could also receive more individualized attention from instructors. Lora said MCC turned out to be the right choice.

"Dr. Lewis was totally right," Lora said. "Everyone has given me so much attention here. I want to express my appreciation to the school, Dr. Larry Christiansen, and Ida Mansourian."

Lora said one of her greatest resources has been John Pinkerton, an English instructor in the MCC writing center.

"Mr. Pinkerton is one of the best teachers I know," Lora said. "A good teacher teaches more than just the subject. Mr. Pinkerton also teaches how to be a good, thoughtful person in society."

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Pinkerton said he is impressed by Lora's mastery of the language and the focus she demonstrates on her research papers.

"Rather than short-term thinking about immediate assignments and her GPA," Pinkerton said, "Lora has a scholar's balanced perspective of the 'big picture.'"

Lora said looking at the whole picture is especially important as she prepares to study pre-med at the University of Arizona next fall. To familiarize herself with the U.S. medical system, she also volunteers at Banner Desert Hospital.

Pinkerton said Lora's long-term plans include returning to China to practice medicine.

"I hope that she reconsiders because she has already demonstrated an uncanny ability to comprehend American culture and customs while consistently representing the best of her family's values," Pinkerton said.

## Athletes and coaches benefit from new video play analyzer

Mesa Community College athletes and coaches have a new tool to help examine and improve game performance. With the help of a software program called Apex Communication, MCC coaches can teach and evaluate their own players as well as examine a rival team's favorite formations. In addition, students can make a highlight film of their best plays by creating a "video resume" on DVD to send when they apply to universities.

MCC Athletic Specialist Rodger Schenks Jr. said their department has been trying to raise money for a system like this for a few years. An MCC Innovative Project grant allowed them to purchase two software systems, one for a laptop computer and one for a desktop computer.

"The kids can watch the video of a game on the laptop or we can move it to a classroom and watch it on a big projection screen so everyone can see it," Schenks said. "If they want individual help, they can come into my office and see it on my desktop computer."

The software allows players and coaches to draw diagrams on

the game video and make notes on the screen. Schenks said students who are kinesthetic learners benefit from visually seeing the action and reading the notes. Coaches can also show students a side-by-side visual comparison of why one play was successful and why another failed.

"The students have been very excited about it," Schenks said. "They enjoy coming in and being evaluated. They can see my notes and fix what they did wrong. When they do a good play and I type in 'good job,' they are able to get positive reinforcement."

The video play analyzer will be used to recruit new players by taking the laptop into the homes of younger athletes to show MCC games. Schenks said the system would also enable him to show proper techniques to high school coaches at various

coaching clinics that he teaches around the state.

In the future, Schenks would like to get another laptop with the software to create more opportunities for peer tutoring and individualized learning. Schenks, who began using the program in early November, said he is still discovering new ways to use the software. "There are tons of features we still haven't tapped into yet," Schenks said.

