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the

Bulletin

Harkins Theatres co-sponsors MCC's third annual International Film Festival

Harkins Theatres and Mesa Community College are teaming up to present this year's MCC International Film Festival. Filmmaker Godfrey Reggio's powerful "Qatsi Trilogy," featuring music by Philip Glass, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. on March 2, 3, and 4 at Harkins Centerpoint 11 in Tempe.

Festival Director Don Castro said MCC's first two film festivals packed in nearly 3,000 people. He believes this year will be even more successful, thanks to the co-sponsorship of Harkins Theatre.

"We're very grateful to Dan Harkins," Castro said. "We're hoping that if we have a good crowd and sell a lot of popcorn, it will be our permanent home."

Reggio's three films, "Koyannisqatsi," "Powaqqatsi," and "Naqoyqatsi," take viewers on a visually stunning journey that explores the impact of technology on nature and ancient cultures. As in past years, filmgoers can stick around for a question and answer period with the director after each of the films.

Viewers might be tempted to ask how Reggio chose the titles for the films. Castro said Reggio initially didn't want to name any of the films, but was told they couldn't distribute a film without a title.

"So he chose Hopi Indian words because they come without any linguistic baggage—when people hear the names, it's not even a word to them," Castro said.

The title of the first film, "Koyannisqatsi," means "life out of balance," and explores technology's effect on the environment.

The second film, "Powaqqatsi," means "life in transformation." Reggio filmed images in 13 different countries to depict contrasting ways of life and examine how globalization affects ancient cultures.

The third film, "Naqoyqatsi," means "life as war." This is the most current in the trilogy and uses computer-driven special effects to take viewers on a journey to where the real gives way to the virtual.

The festival is part of MCC's efforts to internationalize, both in and out of the classroom.

"Even though these are American independent films, I can't think of any more international films than these three," Castro said. "There is no language barrier in these films—there's just music and music is the universal language."



Dr. Larry K. Christiansen and Donna Adams promote MCC's third annual International Film Festival with Festival Director Don Castro. The Festival takes place March 2, 3, and 4.

Free Admission/limited seating.
For more information, contact Don Castro at 480-461-7613.

MCC students at Avnet Tech Games

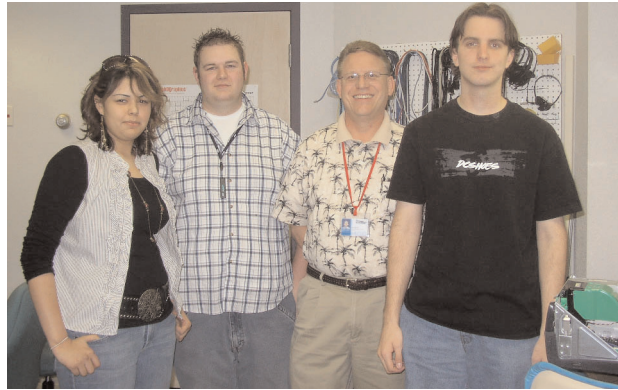
Mesa Community College students are armed and ready to compete against their peers from other Maricopa County Community Colleges in the Avnet Tech Games on March 3 in the Kirk Center. The Olympics-style technology competition gives students a chance to show off their talents to local companies and receive scholarships at the same time.

Prior to the event, students choose a project, brainstorm ideas, and order parts. Actual work doesn't begin until the day of the competition.

A few of the project categories are:

- * Lego robots in a maze
- * Design and build a digital device
- * Defense in depth
- * Build the fastest computer

MCC Business and Industry Institute instructor Bob Samson, who advises two teams in the fastest computer category, said it was interesting to watch both teams use the same directions and hardware, but come up with two completely different designs.



*Karina Aguayo, Mark Astrauskas,
Bob Samson and Chad Barker*

"It's a fun way to allow students to use their creative talents in a little friendly competition," Bob said. "My role is just advisement and guidance. Most of the students are running circles around me."

MCC students Karina Aguayo, Mark Astrauskas, and Chad Barker said they chose the fastest computer category because it is the least subjective and gives them the best shot at winning. Karina said the biggest challenge for her is being a female competitor in a male-dominated field.

"As a girl, I have to surpass obstacles and prove myself," said Karina, who wants to work in network security for the FBI after completing her degree. "But my teammates are easy to work with and give me a chance to express my opinions."

Teams can win scholarships that range from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per student. Freescale Semiconductor, Arizona Business Accelerator, AMD, Computer Associates, Microsoft, Avid, New Angle Media, Renesas, and Spark sponsor the Avnet games. Avnet is a Phoenix-based distributor of electronic components.

MCC Downtown focus of the COE's 15th anniversary meeting

Partnership and collaboration were the key topics at the 15th anniversary celebration of Mesa Community College's Commission on Excellence (COE) in Education. The Commission invited several community leaders to speak at the celebration about "Putting the Pieces Together" to form the MCC Downtown Campus.

Mesa City Manager Chris Brady kicked off the speeches by emphasizing the need to create a great downtown in Mesa.

"We can't do it alone," said Brady, "And I can't think of a better partnership than with MCC."

Northern Arizona University President John Haeger spoke of how the proposed University Center could make advanced education more accessible. Haeger said they would be ready to make formal announcements about NAU programs soon.

Turning to health care, Mesa Fire Chief Harry Beck talked about collaborating with MCC to expand paramedic training, while Mesa

General Hospital Chief Officer Brent Cope spoke about the nursing shortage. Cope said their partnership with MCC could help overcome Arizona's current D+ rating of nurse availability.

Mesa Deputy City Manager Debra Dollar concluded the speeches by explaining how a joint-use library and construction of a shared computer commons will expand resources and use technology more efficiently.

"In the end, we will have a model partnership that others will look to for guidance, something that neither of the organizations could have done on their own, something that takes limited public resources and provides an enhanced library that the entire downtown as well as the City of Mesa can be proud of," Dollar said. The Commission also honored the Spring 2006 scholarship recipients and received more donations from the audience. These donations, together with existing money, put the scholarship fund well over the \$100,000 mark toward their \$150,000 goal for next year's recipients.

"Every nickel pledged today is for MCC students," said MCC President Larry K. Christiansen. "We want to remove barriers. We want to change lives."

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For 15 years, the Commission has gathered input from business, industry, and education leaders to better respond to community needs. Many of MCC's programs today grew from that input, including nursing, architecture, construction, and veterinary programs, as well as the opening of MCC at Red Mountain. Congratulations and thank you for fifteen years of service to Mesa Community College! them to succeed. She is described as an educational social activist who has made a conscious decision "to teach students who fly under the radar; immigrants, refugees, and disability students."

Gail-Marie holds a master's degree in literature and composition from New York University and has attended post-graduate classes in educational philosophy. In addition to teaching, she has designed ESL programs for several local organizations. She said her mentor is Father Dennis Collins, a protégé of Paulo Freire, a Brazilian educationalist who emphasized concern for the oppressed. She is inspired by Freire's belief that "literacy separates those who have from those who have not."

CTE "shop" teacher recruitment

Jon D'Ambrosio, auto shop instructor at Mesa Community College, knows the dire need for Career and Technical Education (CTE) or "shop" teachers in East Valley school districts. CTE directors tell him they have had to cancel classes due to lack of CTE teachers for grades 7 through 12.

In response to that need, D'Ambrosio works with MCC and the Arizona Technology and Industrial Education Association (ATIEA) to let people know about CTE opportunities. On February 9, he invited prospective teachers to an information session at MCC to learn more about CTE.

Representatives from Northern Arizona University, Ottawa University, the Arizona Department of Education, and three East Valley school districts spoke about the two distinct paths prospective teachers can follow:

The first path is to take the technical competencies at MCC (welding, auto, drafting, or electronics), get a two-year degree, then transfer to a university for a teaching degree.

The second path is to become a certified CTE teacher without a teaching degree. If a prospective teacher has 6,000 hours of industrial experience, they can get a provisional teaching certificate, which can become permanent by taking about 18 hours of education courses, followed by professional growth classes.

To help certified teachers earn professional growth hours, ATIEA will present a "Spring Training" workshop at MCC on Feb. 25 with classes in the latest automotive, welding, tiling, and computer maintenance techniques. Prospective teachers who attended the previous information session are invited to come to the workshop for free to network with certified teachers.

D'Ambrosio said his own mid-life career change to teaching CTE was the right move for him.

"The students in your class are there because they want to be, unlike some other subjects," he said. "You give them something they can use the rest of their lives."

For more information on the ATIEA workshop on Feb. 25, call 480-472-0392.



Jon D'Ambrosio greets Michael Roberts, CTE Coordinator at NAU.



Tony Maldonado of Mesa Public Schools, Mark Hamilton of Gilbert Public Schools, Meg Ganesello of Chandler Public Schools, and Jon D'Ambrosio at MCC's Future CTE Teacher Information Workshop.