

April 14, 2009

the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Thanks to some superior artistic ingenuity and the need for a new look, Mesa Thunderbird Athletics is off and running with a sleek new mascot.

The mascot was unveiled at Homecoming in November 2008. The football team was first to don the insignia on their helmets for their game against Scottsdale.

Ever since, student-athletes, alumni, and faculty have seen an increasing interest in the insignia that is uniquely modern. In its origin, the new bird is represented by Mesa's colors; scarlet, white, and southwest blue.

Designed by Shachi Kale, a freelance graphic designer with Institutional Advancement, the new thunderbird also has a hint of orange to create the idea of a bird rising out of fire.

"The design is so distinctive, I've had some professional players tell me they could see it on an NFL (National Football League) helmet," says Jeff Fore, Mesa's Athletic Director. "We also have numerous companies contacting us to carry merchandise showcasing the new mascot."

The new design is carrying its appeal to the student-athletes as well.

"It's great to have a new look. Other schools' players are saying how unique it looks," says Mary Natsyn, a women's basketball team member.

Mesa's mascot became the Thunderbird during the 1974-75 school year and has incorporated the same mascot ever since.

"We definitely needed a new look and a new appeal," says Tishin Donkersley, an adjunct sports psychologist at MCC.

As administration is in the process of patenting the new-look Thunderbird, fans, alumni, and student-athletes can look forward to seeing the emblem adorning jerseys and athletic facilities for years to come.

Thunderbird Athletics New Mascot Turning Heads



Application for Title III Grant Begins

In February 2009, MCC submitted the college's first pre-application of eligibility for Title III Institutional Improvement grant funds. These grants are available to community colleges to assist with instructional, technology, and fiscal developments and stability. Title III grants are given for periods of five years and can provide recipients with up to \$500,000 a year.

Over the next 12 months, MCC will be developing the Title III grant proposal to submit March 2010. This effort will involve several groups as we compile data and develop actions plans. In order to enhance services to our students, preliminary discussions have focused on student success initiatives that stretch all areas of the college.

For more information on Title III or to submit your name for participation please e-mail chairs Scott Russell (scott.russell@mccmail.maricopa.edu) or Sonya Pearson (sonya.pearson@mccmail.maricopa.edu). Please check your e-mails for the 2009-10 Title III Calendar of meetings and events.

Title III Core Team
Scott Russell, Co-Chair
Sonya Pearson, Co-Chair
Naomi Story
Sarah Henderson
Carol Achs
Joseph Swaba
Carol Hale



Forum on Cultural Sustainability in Indigenous Communities Offered

A panel of leaders from indigenous communities in Columbia and the United States will present a two-day forum, "Context of Culture: Meeting the Challenges of Cultural Sustainability in Indigenous Communities." The first day of the forum will be held on April 22 at Scottsdale Community College, followed by a second day at Mesa Community College on April 23.

Faculty, students, employees, community members and the indigenous members of U.S. tribes are invited to attend these sessions. The event is sponsored by the MCCCCD Office of International & Intercultural Education, Maricopa Center for Learning and Instruction, SCC and MCC.

The forum aims to enhance understanding of the challenges facing indigenous communities, particularly in the area of cultural sustainability. By bringing indigenous tribal leaders from Arizona together with tribal leaders of Columbia, students, faculty and the community at large will have opportunity to understand the commonality of these respective communities' challenges through presentations and panel discussion.

Goals of the forum:

- * Develop and/or strengthen awareness, understanding, and expertise of issues related to meeting the challenges of cultural sustainability in indigenous communities;
- * Expand students' understandings about the common issues of indigenous communities at both cultures.
- * Expand pedagogical knowledge of teaching subject matter relative to indigenous communities, and their traditions, struggles and aspirations for self-determination;
- * Help faculty infuse their perspective with an understanding of issues related to the study of Indigenous Peoples;
- * Give faculty key information and connections to aid them in developing curriculum modules related to an understanding of indigenous communities in the Americas, in particular, issues related to cultural sustainability.

When: 9 a.m. – noon, April 22 and 23.

Where: April 22 at Scottsdale Community College; April 23 at Mesa Community College, Nursing Building, NU101.

Details: Please contact Ida Mansourian at ida.mansourian@mccmail.maricopa.edu or 480-461-7753 for more information, or do.iie@domail.maricopa.edu , 480-731-8022.

Recognitions

-Congratulations to Jordan Pack, an MCC graduate who won the College Television Award (the student Emmy) for producing the animated film "KITES." Following his graduation from MCC, he was accepted in the Animation and Film program at Brigham Young University. He produced the film his senior year at BYU. Pack now works for Avalanche, Disney's gaming division. During his acceptance speech, he mentioned MCC professors Jim Garrison and Cyndi Greening.

View clip of Kites here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PjAfwwGJJ4&url=http%3A%2F%2Fjordanpack.blogspot.com%2F2009%2F03%2Fkites-clip.html&feature=player_embedded



-MCC's high school viewbook won a silver paragon award at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations Awards competition in Missouri. More than 80 judges from across the country reviewed over 1,700 entries in this annual competition that recognizes excellence in communications exclusively among two-year colleges.

Congratulations to Kathleen Perales and Mary Jordan for their work on the publication. Access this link to view the book: High School Viewbook.

- MCC student Eric Thompson was selected to USA TODAY's annual All-USA Community College Academic Team. Thompson is one of only 20 students in the nation selected to the team. The USA Today recognition program, administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, honors outstanding two-year students who extend their community college education to better themselves, their schools and their communities. Thompson receives a cash award of \$2,500 and medallions from Phi Theta Kappa.



- Another MCC student, Nedd Anderson, was selected as a Coca-Cola Gold Scholar. Selection was based on scores earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition. Anderson is a sports psychology major who has served more than 1,300 volunteer hours for various community organizations. He receives a cash award of \$1,500 and a gold medallion.

-Congratulations to MCC instructor Anthony Nguyen, who teamed up with Jason Hwang and Johnny Nguyen to take the gold medal in the men's team poomsae event at the National Collegiate Taekwondo Championships at Brown University in Providence, R.I. Anthony also captured the bronze medal in the men's featherweight sparring division.

MCC instructor Christine Beckman, who takes lessons from Anthony, said, "Anthony is an amazing instructor. He's a four-degree blackbelt and it would cost quite a bit of money at a private school to get the level of instructions that our students get here."



-Avnet Tech Games featured 200 students from Arizona colleges and universities Saturday, with community colleges walking away with several awards.

The games featured \$50,000 in prizes, including a chance for students to receive \$1,000 in scholarships. Faculty sponsors of winning teams received \$200, and the team itself received \$300.

MCC winners were:

* Accenture Tech Challenge – Mesa Community College, with faculty coach Scott Shaw and team members Tara Birkholz, Brian Jacques, Cameron Lane and Aaron Rockwell.

* Networking Within the Enterprise – Mesa Community College, with faculty coach Mark Anderson and team members Vincent Hulse, Robert Kim and Suk-Yi Pennock. View a video about the Avnet Tech Games at www.avnettechgames.com/.

Newsbytes

-Book Sale: MCC's library will be holding a used book sale April 15 and 16 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the first floor lobby of the library. Money from the book sale goes to support scholarships for MCC's library technician program.



-The Mesa Community College Library is pleased to announce the October 2009 exhibition "Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, A Man for All Times." MCC's library is one of only 40 libraries nationwide selected to host the exhibition. The exhibition is made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and is based on documents, broadsides, and ephemera about Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War Era from the Gilder Helman Collection. Look for announcements about activities tied to the exhibition this coming fall.

-A website has been created for the Special Olympics Summer Games that will be held at MCC. Visit MCC's Summer Games website.



-A website about MCC's 2009 Graduation Ceremony is available at <http://www.mesacc.edu/students/graduation/>. Please direct students and guests to the site for information about the event including maps and parking, photography, regalia, and special accommodations. The site also includes the steps to graduation and forms needed to apply.

Kids Being Kids Family Fun Fair: Saturday, May 2, 2009, from 10:00 – 2:00, in the Kirk Student Center, Navajo room and Clocktower Lawn. Hosted by the Education Studies Department – Child, Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Program – in celebration of the National Week of the Young Child.

The event is free and open to the public and will feature fun for the entire family, including a fashion show, a DJ, and plenty of activities for children of all ages!

Departments are invited to host an activity table, such as face painting, blowing bubbles, car seat safety, balloon animals, etc. Student volunteers are also requested to help set up and run the activity tables. Please contact Dr. Annapurna Ganesh (aganesh@mesacc.edu) to volunteer.





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PTK Mentor Spring 2009 Honorees – Congratulations to MCC employees nominated by newly inducted members or officers of PTK. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to students. View the list [here](#).

