

THE Bulletin

November 7, 2001

EMPLOYEES LEAD PEER GROUPS

In this issue, we present three employee leaders for 2001-2002: MAT President **Johnice Wilkins**, PSA President **Anita Dusek**, and M&O and Crafts Representative **Jim Dusek** (Anita's husband).



MAT President Johnice Wilkins

These employee leaders have stepped to the plate to represent their coworkers—on MCC's campuses and at the District level. Each represents a different employee group at MCC, and the policies and procedures for the groups can differ dramatically.

But many of the leaders' duties are similar. They schedule meetings and deal with campus issues, policy development and grievance procedures. They serve as sounding boards and advisors. Basically, they're the ones who get a call when there's a problem. As Jim said, "I'm the first point of contact."

Johnice Wilkins is the Director of Student Leadership and President of MAT (Management, Administrative and Technological employees). She has worked at MCC for 24 years. Johnice previously served as both secretary and vice president of MAT.

Anita Dusek is the Administrative Secretary of Exercise Science and is serving her first term as President of PSA (Professional Staff Association). The Association includes support staff, secretaries, administrative assistants, lab technicians and technology people—174 employees in all.

Jim Dusek is MCC's Building Maintenance Technician and the Representative for M&O (Maintenance & Operations) and Crafts. M&O includes grounds and custodial employees, maintenance assistants, and the building maintenance tech. Crafts includes carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters and HVAC (heating and air conditioning) employees. Jim is in his second year as the representative for this employee group.

Staying in touch with all of the employees at multiple sites is an ongoing challenge for MCC's leaders.

"Good communication can be difficult," Anita said, "especially with a second comprehensive campus. I visit the various sites, and I plan to have a PSA meeting at Red Mountain in March. We post minutes of meetings and a calendar on our Web site."

"There *has* to be good communication," Johnice asserted. "I took a tour of our new campus and stopped to talk with the employees. Maybe we'll hold meetings at Red Mountain. We



PSA President Anita Dusek



M&O and Crafts Representative Jim Dusek

ArtWork Offers Lessons in Chalk



Artist Joan Waters re-marks lines on the chalk drawing portraying the events that took place on Sept. 11.

Probably the most thought-provoking and certainly the largest entry in this year's Art Faculty Show was a drawing in chalk at the bottom of the steps leading to the Kirk Center. It's a scale drawing depicting the twin towers of the World Trade Center before their collapse on Sept. 11. Art faculty member **Cyndi Greening** and

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friend **Joan Waters** collaborated to create a visual interpretation of the events of this fateful day and devised a way to share the experience with others. The artists offer these comments:

After the tragedy on Sept. 11, like many of us, we felt we wanted to do something.

As artists, we envisioned uniting other artists all around the country in a positive counteraction that would help people understand the magnitude of what has happened from a different perspective. We've come up with "**Drawn Together - A Nationwide Artist Anti-Terrorist Action.**"

Using sidewalk chalk, a tape measure, and the downloadable plans on our Web site, <http://www.drawntogether.org>, we invite artists and all interested individuals around the country to create these scale drawings in their communities. The drawing shows the World Trade Center towers and two 767 airplanes drawn to scale next to humans (the

towers are 32 feet tall next to people that are 1.5 inches high). Special writings surround the buildings and provide additional food for thought.

We've done several of these drawings in the Phoenix /Mesa/Tempe area (see Web site for photos), and they have been received extremely positively. When people stand next to the huge outlines of the buildings and the small people, they are able to understand what happened in a very different way than words, photos and language can convey. By creating these drawings in parks and schools around the nation, artists are able to bring a unique and new perspective to the tragedy.

Please help us spread the word. Visit the Web site, share it with friends, and go out and do one (or several) of these drawings in your community. We think we can make an impact with this project.



Cyndi Greening, Art faculty member and codesigner of "Drawn Together."

Banner Health Partners with MCC

Twenty-eight employees from Desert Samaritan Medical Center have been named to a pilot program funded by Banner Health of Arizona to address the shortage of qualified workers in the health care field.

Banner Foundation of Arizona provided funding to launch the Essential Career Pathways Pilot Project (ECP). The project is set up as a "grow your own" plan, offering current Desert Samaritan employees who hold entry level jobs a way to enter college. These employees now have the opportunity to earn their Associate degree as registered nurses. Banner Foundation is covering the costs of tuition, books, study guides, fees and nursing exams.

In return, the students made a commitment to stay with Banner as full-time employees for three years upon completion of their educational pathway program.

Mesa Community College, in partnership with Banner Health, tested the candidates for placement and advised, welcomed and registered them for the fall semester. Currently they are working toward completing their prerequisites before they can make application to the nursing program.

Essential Career Pathways was built by Banner as a result of a study released in Oct. 2000, which shows that there is a 16 percent vacancy rate for registered nurses in Arizona, compared to the 11 percent average rate nationwide.

Myrna Eshelman, chair of MCC's school of nursing, said, "Because the vacancy rates in Arizona are higher than the national average, there is a huge push by the Arizona Health Care and Hospital Association to recruit and retain nurses."

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want to make everybody aware that they haven't been forgotten."

Perhaps Jim faces the greatest communication hurdles because M&O and Crafts employees work different shifts. President Christiansen meets with us every year," Jim said. "We come in early, the late shift stays late, and the President accommodates us." The custodians work from 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.; the grounds crew and Crafts employees arrive at 5 in the morning and leave by mid afternoon. For special meetings, timing is critical.

All three group leaders attribute their successes to others who help them get the job done. "I have been fortunate to work with good people," Johnice said. Anita expressed appreciation for her coworkers as well: "I thank all of the PSA members for their support," she said, "and Dr. Christiansen has been a wonderful advocate for us." Jim also noted that he is not alone in representing M&O and Crafts employees. He mentioned **John Adler**, a representative for the custodial crew; **Ray Fowler**, representative for the M&O day shift; and Crafts representative **Tim Sterk**.

In addition to the commitment they have made to their respective employee groups, the leaders also get together on a regular basis to compare notes. None of them, however, seems to be burdened by the extra hours required to hold the volunteer posts. "It's nice to be representing all the voices here," Johnice said.

Check It Out

Call the US 60 Construction Information Hotline at 1-877-700-US60 for daily updates on the freeway-widening project near MCC's Southern and Dobson campus. For more complete information, including maps, visit <http://www.superstitionfreeway.com/>.

Go to <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/academic/theatre/perform/> to check upcoming Theater, Music and Dance performances.

Click on <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/stuserv/athletics/> for game times in Sports at Mesa Community College.

Visit <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/academic/ctl/events.html> for information on "Just in Time" learning opportunities at the Center for Teaching and Learning.

It's All Happening in the Fall at MCC



Students participate in NASCAR pit crew - Far left photo, l-r: Brad Burnham, MCC; Curtis Reams, Westwood High School; and MCC faculty member Jon D'Ambrosio. Near left: Curtis and Brad. The President's Homecoming Barbecue is a finger-lickin' success - Below left: group photo. Below right: Chuck Brown, past ASMCC president, with sons Malcolm and Isiah.

Photo by Jon D'Ambrosio



More Barbecue good times - Far left photo, foreground, l-r: Joe Milner, Pat De Blake, Marie Allen, Dr. Norberto Adame, and Associate Dean of Student Activities and Virtual Services Pattie Cardenas-Adame. Near left: Governing Board member Nancy Stein and MCC president, Dr. Larry Christiansen.

Photos by Jennifer La Forge

Last but not least, the Fall Bash/Career Expo . . .

Near right: MCC students Jennifer "Nene" Richards, Art Bettancourt, and Elaina Kapeliela.

Far right: One very adventurous soul on the Spyro Gyro, also known as the Orbitron Ride.



C A L E N D A R**Tuesday, Nov. 6, through
Tuesday, Nov. 13**

French National Week Celebration
French poetry, music and films
4:30-7 p.m. (students perform
daily from 4:30 to 5 p.m.), MB5
Films shown on Nov. 6, 7, 8 and 13.

**Friday and Saturday,
Nov. 9 and 10**

A Cabaret
7:30 p.m., MU3
An evening of musical theatre
Scholarship donation, \$10;
refreshments included.
Presented by MCC Music Department's
Standing Room Only
For tickets, call the Music Office
at 461-7575. Seating is limited.

Monday, Nov. 12
*Veteran's Day***Tuesday, Nov. 13 through Friday,
Nov. 16**

National Children's Book Week
Scholastic Book Fair
9 a.m.-3 p.m., Kirk Center
For more information, call the
Center for Service Learning, 461-7393.

**Thursday and Friday,
Nov. 15 and 16**

PSA Boutique, Navajo Room
9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday
8 a.m.-noon on Friday
For more information, contact
Kristie Adamson, 461-7200.

Saturday, Nov. 17

Technology Dept. Open House
10 a.m.-2 p.m., Technology Annex (TC50)

Open to the public, with a special
invitation to high school students,
parents, and current MCC students.

The Technology Dept., in conjunction with
the MCC Career Services office, is sponsoring
a Technology Fair to provide information
about Technology programs. East Valley
employers will attend the event to encourage
enrollment in these programs. These
employers are interested in the
qualities of an MCC graduate who has
attained a certificate or associate
degree from the MCC Technology Dept.

For more information, contact
Roger Harlow at 461-7499.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

Oxfam Hunger Banquet
12:00 p.m., Navajo Room, Kirk Center
Sponsored by the Center for Service
Learning, Phi Theta Kappa and the
Cool Council.
Participants are encouraged to arrive at
12 noon and stay till 1:30 p.m. to
receive the full benefit of the event.

The Hunger Banquet is designed to help
participants gain a personal perspective on
the reality of hunger in our community and
in the world. This is a free event and can be
a great learning opportunity for instructors
and students. A canned food or monetary
donation will be gratefully accepted.
For more information,
call Duane Oakes, 461-7214.

**Thursday and Friday,
Nov. 22 and 23**

Thanksgiving Holiday



*On Monday, Oct. 15, MCC officially welcomed
Dr. Kenneth Atwater, the new president of South
Mountain Community College. Dr. Atwater met
faculty and staff at a morning coffee in the
Employee Lounge of the Kirk Center on the
Southern and Dobson campus.*

The October 10 Empty
Bowls event at MCC raised
\$12,100, which will buy
120,000 pounds of food for
the Paz de Cristo Community
Center to feed families.



Congratulations to MCC's Men's and Women's Soccer Teams and Coaches! The Men's Soccer Team made it to the Region 1 Semi-Final Game on Wednesday, Oct. 31, against Pima Community College. The Women's Soccer Team won the Region 1 Championship Game against Cochise Community College and traveled to Dallas, Texas, for the District Championship Game on Nov. 3.



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, phone 480-461-7445.

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