



☰ NEWS FEATURES OPINIONS LIFESTYLE SPORTS CULTURE ABOUT US 🔍

New ▶ When QAnon spreads child sex trafficking misinformation, organizations push back 12/18/2020 < >

Home - Features - [Meet three VIPs from MCC's 2020 Hall of Fame: Wynn Call](#)

# Meet three VIPs from MCC's 2020 Hall of Fame: Wynn Call

🕒 12/19/2020




MCC's full list of 2020 Hall of Fame honorees can be found at <https://www.mesacc.edu/alumni/hall-fame/2020-hall-fame>.

Search ... 🔍

ON TWITTER

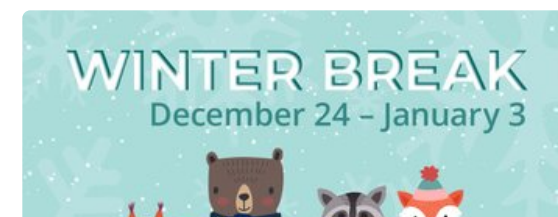
Tweets by @LegendNewspaper

Legend Newspaper Retweeted

 **Mesa Community College**  
@mesacc

Have a safe and happy winter break! You've worked hard this semester - make sure to relax and spend time doing the things that you love. The college will be closed December 24 - January 3.

Don't forget to register for spring classes at [mesacc.edu](https://www.mesacc.edu).



On Nov. 10, Mesa Community College (MCC) announced its list of newly inducted 2020 Hall of Fame Honorees. Among these were three veteran professors: Dr. Betsy Hertzler, Mona Scott and Dr. Wynn Call, who have all etched their names into the hearts and walls of these campus grounds.

This series explores their unique personalities, beginnings and goals. Each has played a tremendously important role in shaping MCC's education experience. These articles explore who these instructors are, what motivates them and their perspectives on education's biggest issues.

### Wynn Call, Ph.D



Dec 18, 2020



With coronavirus safety measures in mind, the city of Mesa has continued with Merry Main Street events. Read more at the link. Article by Kaylee Cluff @KayleeCluffNews mesalegend.com/city-of-mesa-c...

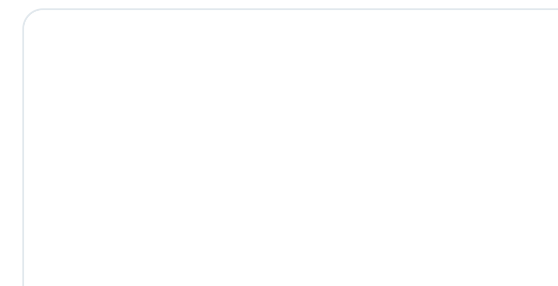
**City of Mesa continues Merry ...**  
 City of Mesa's Merry Main Stree...  
 mesalegend.com

Dec 17, 2020



The Mesa Community College Theatre department is in production for their first feature film, "Antigone." Faculty Kevin Dressler will direct the play with crew help from MCC alumni.

Read more at the link. Article by @acripe2 mesalegend.com/mcc-begins-pro...



**MCC begins production on their first film, ...**  
 Through Zoom and social distancing, student...  
 mesalegend.com

Dec 14, 2020

[Embed](#)

[View on Twitter](#)





Wynn Call worked as a clinician while teaching courses at MCC.  
(Photo courtesy of Institutional Advancement)



MCC psychology professor Dr. Wynn Call has been teaching full time for 30 years. Before that, from 1975-1990, he taught night classes at MCC as an adjunct. Also during that time, he worked as a clinician, helped run a business and taught at the Institute of Religion at Arizona State University. His experience as a clinician and his expertise in teaching have led many students down the career path of psychology.

Currently, he teaches Introduction to Psychology and Abnormal Psychology virtually at MCC.

“Teaching is the absolute best and most honorable profession that a person has,” Call said. “I’ve quit all the others now, and guess what I am still doing? Teaching.”

When asked about how he felt being honored in the 2020 MCC Hall of Fame, he replied with humility.

“Well I am greatly humbled. There’s a lot of folks who deserve this as much as I would, maybe more, but it’s a great honor,” said Call. “I have enjoyed my time here, and have been very much involved in things at MCC over the years.”

Call said he had always enjoyed learning, and soon recalled how he first became involved in education through a job he obtained at an elementary school during his time as a college student.

“I absolutely loved it,” said Call. “... I could see how much teaching could influence the lives of others.”

When asked about a successful teaching moment, Dr. Call recounted the story of a student in one of his Psychology of Religion courses. The subject, incidentally one his favorites to teach, attempted to bridge the gap between what he described as an atheistic trend in psychology at the time and the measurable psychological benefits religion could provide.

The course was centered around the analysis of religious practice, and rather than critiquing the ideology, students would learn about what makes religious people tick. Call read from a written letter about the effect the course had on one student.

“It was at the turning point of my life that I began to become gradually more and more obsessed with religion as per the atheistic stereotype. It was this obsession that drove me to take this class,” Call continued. “To say the least, this experience has opened my mind. I can recall not six months ago being the first person among my peer group to belittle religion, and to point out all the harm it has done. Now when my friends start the timeless discussion about why religion is evil, I am the first to pipe up in its defense with the claim religion has also done good...”

Being a part of this change, Call said, felt pretty good.

When asked about his motivations as a professor, Call said his philosophy on teaching could be best described through a series of passages in the book “A Teacher is Many Things” by Earl Pullias. Many years ago a guest lecture from Pullias introduced a younger Call to the ideas that would define his career. Call repeated a handful of passages pulled from those pages and painted an image of a teacher who was many things: a guide, a fellow traveler and companion, a role model, a seeker of answers, a creator, a confidant, a visionary, a storyteller, an evaluator and, most importantly, a person.

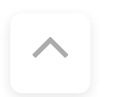
“A teacher is a real person, like everybody else. I’m a real person. I have ups and I have downs. We have challenges. We have other parts of our lives that we pay attention to. As a result of that, we are real people,” Call said.

When asked about issues within the education industry, Call said that decades ago, he was challenged by low pay, working multiple jobs to provide for his family and staying up late to keep up with new material.

“When I taught my first elementary school class, my annual salary was \$4,200,” said Call. “...How did I overcome it? Well I kept going to school and getting more degrees. And while I was doing that, and raising a family to boot, both myself and my wife took in extra work.”

“I had two jobs. I’ve always had two jobs... all my life,” Call continued. “...For 30 years I would work at MCC, get done at 4 or 5 o’clock, and then go to the clinic until 10 every night.”

He was also met with one obstacle he enjoyed: keeping up-to-date information at hand. This process of self preparation, he explained, included constantly



attending courses, reading newly released journals on psychology, preparing new and exciting lessons and learning from the conversations of his colleagues and students.

Now, Call said, “One of the things that’s been of concern to me is that we have become more emotional thinkers rather than rational thinkers.”

He said education institutions were becoming too focused on changing to meet the demands of emotionally captivating issues; they should be more focused on maintaining instructor competency and academic integrity. In addition, he warned that the hiring process was a place where personal bias could easily interfere with that integrity.

“Like I said in my philosophy of teaching, a teacher is a person, but you better be careful not to get involved in things that are your personal preferences over the fact that these are the competencies of the discipline that you have to do.”

Moreover, he fears COVID-19, which thrust nearly all teachers across the country into online environments, took something dear from the education process.

“I’m probably crazy, but if they would tell me I could go back tomorrow and go in class despite being in the more vulnerable population, I would be there tomorrow,” said Call. “...I don’t think you can operate in fear.”

In the end, Call believes the challenges presented by mounting external pressures would continue to be an issue for education for the foreseeable future. Still, he remained hopeful teachers like him would be able to go back to class next year.

## About Author



### **Brock Blasdell**

Brock Blasdell is a student journalist from Mesa, Arizona. He was hired onto the Mesa Legend in late 2018 as an Opinions Editor, and soon became the publication’s News Editor in



2019. He is now an Alumnus Correspondent for the paper. His writings emphasize college history, civil involvement, and personal reflection on modern American issues, while also analyzing and critiquing the role of modern media in national politics. Twitter @Brockblasdell

[← Previous Article](#)

[Next Article >](#)

**Meet three VIPs from MCC's  
2020 Hall of Fame: Mona Scott**

**It's time for the Mesa Legend  
Critic Awards**

RELATED ARTICLES



🕒 02/17/2015

**'Star Wars' is more than just franchise to dedicated fans**

Aaron Ruacho Mesa Legend "Star Wars" is much more than a franchise; it has become a way of life for

[READ MORE](#)

🕒 10/17/2016

**The Faces of Endo**

Nikki Waldmann Mesa Legend "The Faces of Endo" is a blog that was created and founded by Angela Wice

[READ MORE](#)

🕒 11/10/2014

**MCC students work together to help charities**

By: Joshua Bowling MCC honors students participated in feeding the homeless on Oct. 26, joining forc

[READ MORE](#)

