

NOV 01 '05 the Bulletin



MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

James Cervantes delivers inaugural poem at Mesa Arts Center Dedication



MCC English faculty member James Cervantes helped kick off the Mesa Arts Center Dedication Ceremony recently with the reading of an inaugural poem written specifically for the event. He performed before a crowd of about 500 local art lovers who celebrated amidst the center's multi-colored buildings and giant white shade canopies.

The center commissioned Jim to write the poem, which he titled "Salvador Dali, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and Quentin Tarantino Visit the Mesa Arts Center."

"When I read the title it got chuckles from the entire audience," Jim said.

He chose Dali, Garcia Marquez, and Tarantino out of admiration for their work. Jim said he simply tried to capture the spirit of the multifaceted \$98 million arts center in the heart of downtown Mesa.

"I'd never done anything on commission before," he said. "It was kind of hard to write on demand about a specific thing, but overall, it was a good experience."

Mesa Arts Center executive director, Gerry Fatheuer, said, "The Mesa Arts Center is about celebrating the human spirit through the arts, and as such I cannot imagine a more appropriate vehicle to memorialize the dedication of the center than a poem. James Cervantes' poem paints uplifting images that characterize people experiencing the arts at the center, just as the dominant architectural sails uplift and inspire as do his metaphors in the poem."

The center was presented with a broadside of the poem on handmade paper, done by Karla Elling, proprietor of Mummy Mountain Press and coordinator of the Arizona State University Creative Writing Program. Another copy will reside in the main hallway of MCC's English Department.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities at MCC, Jim has a new collection of poetry, titled "Temporary Meaning," scheduled for publication by Hamilton Stone Editions in spring of 2006. Other published works include "Changing the Subject," "Live Music," and "The Headlong Future," among others. His work has been

nominated for the Pushcart Prize and has appeared in a number of anthologies and literary publications. Jim is the editor of the *Salt River Review*, the *Mesa Review*, and has served as program director for the Mesa Literary Festival.

Salvador Dali, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and Quentin Tarantino Visit the Mesa Arts Center

Let's say that winter
Has finally come to the desert
And it is one of those snows
Without wind, which is popcorn,
Of course, that drifts down
In slow motion as the audience
Rises slow as flowers
Opening in a nature film,
Arms in air as the conductor
Has scored a touchdown
And ballerina cheerleaders
Leap upward, their tutus
inside-out umbrellas.
But popcorn is not allowed
And we must erase all this
In favor of the kids
Who have mixed colors
And come up with coffee
Flowing skyward from cups,
A monsoon in reverse
As the audience rises
In slow motion at the end
Of Act Three. But drinks
Are not allowed and we
Make do with white sails,
Full-blown and without a ship,
Drawn or just imagined,
Like our wings
Above the desert floor.

By James Cervantes

Four-year degrees dominate discussion at Forum on Higher Education

Representative Laura Knaperek, Republican-Tempe, recently invited educators, students, and taxpayers to a forum on higher education reform hosted by Mesa Community College. Knaperek listened as participants dug in and discussed the pros and cons of whether community colleges should offer four-year degrees.

Knaperek co-chairs the Joint Legislative Ad Hoc Task Force on Higher Education with Senator Linda Gray, Republican-Glendale, who was not present at the MCC form. The pair has hosted similar meetings throughout Arizona to solicit community input on higher education reforms. After two more forums in Yavapai County, Knaperek and Gray will submit their findings to the governor and the legislature by Dec. 31.

At MCC, forum participants voiced concerns over funding and the structural changes community colleges would undergo by offering baccalaureate degrees, but at the same time acknowledged the critical worker shortages in the fields of nursing, fire science, law enforcement and teaching.

Deb Duvall, Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools, expressed concern over how MCC's partnership with MPS and the community would be impacted by the change.

"There are many questions to surface and solve before considering a four-year degree program," Duvall said. "But I do know this about MCC. We have the leadership here, the instructional competence, and the accessibility so that those degrees, if awarded here, would be held in high esteem and would be respected by all."

In response to concerns over weakening programs by "robbing Peter to pay Paul" from both MCC and Arizona State University educators, Knaperek assured the audience that solid planning would precede any changes.

"I'm not throwing ideas out there without money to back them up," Knaperek said. "We can try to be creative and think outside the box."



Both students and educators emphasized the need for more educational diversity, affordability, and accessibility.

Knaperek thanked forum participants for a "lively debate" of ideas she would take back to the task force.

Forum panelists included: Larry Christiansen, MCC President; Jeffrey Linford, President of Associated Students of MCC; Gail Hackett, ASU Vice Provost; Deb Duvall, Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools; Carol McCormack, President of Mesa United Way; Barbara Carpenter, Chair of MCC's Commission on Excellence; David Schwalm, ASU Vice Provost of Academic Affairs; Rodney Holmes, MCC Dean of Instruction; Lyn Dutton, MCC Faculty Senate President; and Gary Stuart, Arizona Board of Regents.

MCC Faculty Senate's Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. Ann Ewing, Psychology Faculty member, is the first recipient of the Faculty Senate Distinguished Faculty Award. The award is the highest academic honor bestowed by the Mesa Community College (MCC) Faculty Senate. "Ann is an accomplished educator and deserves this award for years of hard work and service to Mesa Community College and her students," said John Seims. Ann will receive a \$2,000 cash award, an individual plaque, and her name will be the first of many to appear on a

plaque displaying all recipients of this award.



Ann was nominated by fellow colleague and friend, Dr. Skip Pollock. "Her amazing teaching ability is only overcome by her genuine modesty," stated Skip. Below are excerpts from Skip's letter.

Ann Ewing has both the reputation and the professional credentials of a "true master" teacher. Students eagerly seek Dr. Ewing for her Social Psychology, Introduction to Psychology, and Statistics classes.

She is a creative and motivating instructor who is famous for her student involvement projects. Her students' evaluations continue to

be outstanding in all categories. She encourages and supports students to go beyond their own expectations.

Although Dr. Ewing is genuinely known in her profession, she has never lost her focus and her "home base." Dr. Ewing's first love is working with students. She was the founder of the MCC Psi Beta club, Psychology Honors club, and continues to be the primary faculty advisor. Under her watchful eye, MCC's Psi Beta has won the national outstanding chapter six times.

Notable awards and accomplishments;

- Instrumental in setting up a national undergraduate research competition under the auspices of the American Psychological Association (APA)
- Maricopa GM Community Service Award in 1995
- MCC Teaching Excellence Award in 1997
- National Outstanding Faculty of the Year awarded by APA in 2000
- Outstanding Faculty in Psychology awarded by the Western Psychological Association in 2002
- Faculty Member of the Year award by the Arizona Psychological Association (*this is the first time in 55 years a faculty member from a community college has been awarded*). This Distinguished Faculty award is completely student nominated.

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Award continued

The Distinguished Faculty Award recognizes full-time faculty members for exemplary teaching as well as outstanding service to the college, community, and profession. Any MCC faculty, staff, or student may nominate an eligible faculty member. Faculty may not self-nominate

The Faculty Senate is currently accepting nominations for 2005-2006. Nomination forms are due by Monday, November 7, 2005.

Please return forms to John Seims (Red Mountain campus) or Harold Cranswick (Southern and Dobson campus).

For more information about the nomination process please visit <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/organizations/employee/facultysenate/>

Requesting services for newly hired employees just got easier.

If you manage or supervise a department, hire employees, and/or request accounts or services for employees, there is a new service you might find to your advantage. A new Employee Services Request form is now available online.

This easy-to-use online form provides one-stop shopping for requesting the following services for a new or existing employee:

- MEMO and Mesa email accounts (new employees only)
- Phone service (including voice mail and long distance access)
- SIS account service (Legacy – current SIS and EASIS +)
- Computer request (transfer or reallocate)

Where do I find it?

Navigate from the MCC homepage to locate the form:

MCC Homepage>>Employee Web>>Computing Resources and Support>>Employee Services Request Form.

Direct link: <http://everest.mc.maricopa.edu/services/employee/empservicesrequest.mxml>

What do you need to know prior to using this form?

Use your MCC Portal username and password to login to the form.

To request any service for an employee, you will need that employee's name (as filed in Human Resources) and date of birth.

If you are requesting:

- Phone services, you may need to know the phone, jack, voicemail and/or additional line appearance numbers.
- SIS account services, please note any special job duties that may be required of that employee.
- Computer services, you may need to know the computer platform, wall jack number, office location, and/or MCC barcode.

MCC's Technology Support Services will send the requestor a ticket(s) detailing the services requested within 3-5 business days. You will be notified once the service is complete.

Help?

An online tutorial and printable instructions are located in the Help menu at the top of the Employee Services Request Form.

If you have any questions or comments about the form or the progress of your requests please contact MCC's Technology Support Services at 461-7217 or tss@mcmail.maricopa.edu.

MCC and Koning Willem I College sign International Memorandum of Understanding

The relationship that began several years ago between Mesa Community College and Koning Willem I College (KWIC) in the Netherlands reached a new level on Sept. 5 when MCC President Dr. Larry Christiansen and KWIC President Dr. Coen Free signed an International Memorandum of Understanding to prepare students for citizenship in a global society.

The memorandum marked the start of a pilot program offering a degree in Organizational Management with a specialization in International Business to KWIC and MCC students.

Both colleges will collaborate in an exchange of faculty, students, and articulation of coursework. Online classes with videoconferencing will provide additional connection and culturalization. The program will be continually evaluated at both institutions and modified as needed.



MCC and KWIC are piloting a program to offer a degree in Organizational Management with a Specialization in International Business.

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Memorandum of Understanding continued

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The program has already begun, with MCC faculty member Chuck Hall currently teaching four business classes in the Netherlands as well as one Internet class for students here in Mesa. In October, Maaïke Scholten and Imke van der Werf from

KWIC will spend two weeks at MCC, meeting faculty and visiting classes. Then, in May 2006, Linda Collins, MCC Business/CIS Department Chair and John Mainieri, Business Faculty, will travel to the Netherlands for a similar experience.

Ida Mansourian, Interim Director of MCC's International Education Department, said there are many benefits to the program for both students and faculty.

"It provides an opportunity for the college in general to move toward internationalizing our college, which is part of our strategic plan," Ida said.

Linda Collins anticipates that the first group of students from the Netherlands completing this degree will attend classes on campus at MCC during spring semester of 2008 and then go through the formal MCC graduation.

"We are just really excited about it," Linda said. "There's a lot of enthusiasm about the program."

MCC launches new web site

On Friday, October 21, the Web Oversight Committee (WOC) unveiled a preview of the new Mesa Community College (MCC) homepage and first tier pages. A link to the new pages will appear prominently on MCC's existing homepage. The new web design is being launched this way to allow for feedback from the college and community before the new design replaces the current homepage in November. These pages include, but are not limited to, reorganized sections for students, employees, and alumni.

The new design is a product of input from throughout the MCC community. The WOC has been meeting for more than eighteen months to devise a new navigation system for MCC's website, and a new and consistent look and feel for all the top level pages. To kick-start the actual redesign process, on April 8 of this year representatives from a variety of groups that make up the MCC community participated in a "branding" workshop. Data collected during the workshop helped committee members and the web designers develop the pages available for preview.

To help MCC developers maintain department websites, the Committee also developed a set of standards and guidelines which is available via the Web Support Services website <http://web.mc.maricopa.edu/employees/websupport/styles.html>.

"We are currently in the process of identifying a web information provider for each campus area. This person will serve as the main contact between his or her department and the WOC. In some cases, this contact might be the person directly responsible for maintaining and updating a department's website. At the very least, the contact will be responsible for communicating formal web edit requests to Web Support Services," stated Paul Hietter.

After the new homepage and first tier pages are made live, the Committee will be focusing its efforts on prioritizing second and third tier page redesign by campus area.

Please explore the preview pages and let the WOC know what you think by sending feedback to webcommittee@mccmail.maricopa.edu.

You can access the preview pages by visiting <http://web.mc.maricopa.edu/>.

FAQ

For a list of frequently asked questions please visit <http://web.mc.maricopa.edu/employees/woc/faqs.html>.

