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the

Bulletin

MCC Summer Study Abroad Programs

Mesa Community College student Terry Martin-Hall considers her study-abroad trip to Ireland last summer an experience that changed her life. Whether chasing down scavenger-hunt items for a class assignment or enjoying a quiet walk in the lush countryside, Martin-Hall said the trip offered the best of both worlds.

“Everything we did touched upon something we learned in class,” said Martin-Hall. “The teachers blended the curriculum with the trip flawlessly. It was very relevant and very awesome.”

One aspect of the trip that impressed Martin-Hall greatly was the organization and patience of the faculty as they herded a group of about 30 students to castles, festivals, and cities throughout Ireland.

“They were kind, understanding, and non-judgmental,” she said. “I admired them all.”

MCC faculty members who teach classes abroad say the experience is every bit as awe-inspiring for them. MCC English faculty member Mary Aldridge has spent the past two summers in Ireland teaching Modern Irish Literature at the Athlone Institute of Technology, located along the River Shannon.

“You watch the students grow as individuals over the five weeks,” Aldridge said. “As they learn about another culture, they get a different perspective on things and start thinking about their own culture.”

MCC study-abroad programs offer a variety of travel destinations to fit a wide range of budget and time constraints. This summer, along with two sessions in Ireland, programs are offered in China, Austria, and four cities in Mexico.

At the Wuyi University in Jiangmen, China, students learn anthropology and cultural geography. A trip to Salzburg, Austria allows students to explore global issues at the Salzburg Seminar.

In Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, students study marine life on the Sea of Cortez. The Guanajuato program offers classes in

Spanish, photography, history, and archeology. The Xalapa program features service learning in Mexican classrooms and language immersion.

Prices for MCC study-abroad programs range from \$850 to \$4,000. The cost covers travel expenses, tuition, and lodging. Many programs last 5 weeks, but a few last only a week or two. For more information, visit:

http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/services/international/study_abroad/index.html. Most of the trips have March deadlines for reservations and scholarship applications.

Photos from past study-abroad trips appear at:

* Athlone, Ireland, visit: http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/services/international/study_abroad/Ireland/index1.htm

* Xalapa, Mexico, visit: http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d10/mexico_ss/10129_flash/index.html

* Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, visit: http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/services/international/study_abroad/Rocky%20Point%202005/index1.htm

Spotlight on new study abroad program

MCC offers a new program in Cuernavaca, Mexico this summer for professionals and adult learners who want to brush up on their beginning Spanish conversation skills. The two-week trip is shorter than most of the study-abroad programs, requiring a shorter time commitment for employed individuals.

“This trip is a great opportunity for those who work in the fields of nursing, police work, or other occupations where bilingual skills are a plus,” said MCC foreign language instructor Maria Martell.

Students are fully immersed in the culture of Mexico as they stay with local families, take bus trips, and dine in Mexican restaurants. Highlights include a weekend excursion to Mexico City, plus trips to nearby Taxco, an historic silver mining town. The cost of \$1,432 includes tuition, airfare, and accommodations.



New dental program meets community needs

In response to Arizona's growing need for more dental hygienists and assistants, Mesa Community College is offering a new program in collaboration with A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health. Lecture courses are offered at the Red Mountain Campus of MCC and all clinical coursework is done at a nearby ASDOH facility.

"One of the unique benefits of this program is the opportunity to work with dental students," said Phebe Blitz, MCC's Dental Hygiene Program Director. "We offer professionalism and teamwork with state-of-the-art equipment."

Degrees offered:

* Dental hygienists provide preventive and therapeutic oral health care to patients in a dentist-supervised work setting. Students can earn an Associate in Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene in four semesters, once general education requirements are met. Graduates are then eligible to take the written and clinical exams to obtain Arizona state licensure.

* Dental assistants are part of the dental care team that helps dentists during exams and treatments. Students can earn an Associate in Applied Science degree in Dental Assisting in four semesters, once general education requirements are met. Graduates are then eligible to take national dental board exams. Or students can earn a Certificate of Completion in Dental Assisting in two semesters.

Employment of dental hygienists and assistants is expected to grow much faster than average for all occupations through the year 2012, according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook. In 2003, Arizona employed nearly 1,700 dental hygienists and 5,200 assistants. To keep pace with the area's population growth, the state is expected to need about 1,400 more hygienists and 5,200 more assistants by 2013.

In 2005, the salary range for dental hygienists was between \$28 and \$38 per hour. For dental assistants, starting salaries ranged between \$25,000 and \$30,000 per year.

For more information, visit www.mc.maricopa.edu or contact the MCC Office of Admissions by phone at 480-654-7600.

Marc Center Educator Award for MCC Instructor

Mesa Community College English instructor Gail-Marie Fiattarone's outstanding efforts on behalf of disabled students have earned her the distinction of being the first community college professor to receive the Marc Center Educator Award.

The Marc Center presents an Educator Award each year to a teacher who has made substantial contributions to students with disabilities. The Marc Center is a local not-for-profit corporation that has provided educational and social services to children and adults with developmental, physical, and mental disabilities for nearly 50 years.

For disabled students, the pursuit of higher education is particularly challenging. Federal legislation mandates that every child be entitled to an appropriate public education regardless of disability, but only through high school. As a result, college-level special education classes are non-existent, leaving disabled students with minimal support.

Gail-Marie is an instructor who understands disabilities and is willing to accept the challenge of teaching those students who learn differently. The parent of one of her students, Jeffrey Hough, nominated Gail-Marie for the Educator Award.

"I was touched, honored, and surprised to be recognized by the Marc Center board," said Gail-Marie, who has taught at MCC for four years. "But I think my student, Jeffrey Hough, deserves it more."

Those who know Gail-Marie say she makes students feel accepted and secure in her classroom, setting high academic standards, but also instilling confidence in the students while providing the

resources necessary for 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."

Congratulations to Gail for her compassion and dedication toward changing the lives of so many students.



Gail-Marie Fiattarone received the MarcCenter award for assisting students with disabilities.

2006 All-Arizona Academic Team Lunch

On Feb. 9, Mesa Community College will host the annual All-Arizona Academic Team Recognition Lunch, which honors high-achieving students from community colleges all over the state. Four MCC students have been named to the All-Arizona Academic Team competition, based on academic achievement, leadership, and community service. The competition qualifies students for placement on the national All-USA Academic Team.

Students representing MCC include:



Darilyn Ebert, MCC at Red Mountain. Darilyn is a biology major with a GPA of 3.79 whose career goal is medical research. She returned to college after raising five children, three of whom are also MCC students. Her volunteer activities include humanitarian service, international relief, and environmental clean-up. Darilyn said service activities have enriched her life. “I believe that by a series of small acts, great things can be accomplished, and truly have been accomplished through the coordinated efforts of our community members.”



James Rogers, MCC at Southern and Dobson. James holds a 3.68 GPA and plans to pursue a career as a grant writer for health and human services. He is a single parent who finds the time to volunteer in the campus Peervention Program, domestic violence forums, and the Maricopa County Head Start Program. James, who is permanently disabled due to an industrial accident, said he has never allowed his disabilities to compromise achieving his goals. “I am grateful to return the assistance I received by becoming an advocate to show others what can be achieved with hard work and perseverance.”



John Spillman, MCC at Southern and Dobson. John is a psychology major with a 3.655 GPA whose career goal is child psychology research. His service projects include Into the Streets, Relay for Life, and the Road to Recovery Program, in which he spent 250 hours transporting cancer patients to doctor appointments. John led a team of volunteers who spelled out the words “hope” and “cure” with nearly 1000 luminarias at the Relay for Life event. The experience had a powerful impact on John. “Cancer is no longer just a disease that took my father’s life, but a disease that cancer victims strive for HOPE and a CURE.”



Ashley Burbach, MCC at Red Mountain. Ashley is an early childhood education major with a 3.892 GPA whose goal is to become a teacher. She has volunteered with the AmeriCorps UCAN Serve Program, Operation Iraqi Children, and served as an MCC student ambassador. Ashley began service-learning projects after realizing that the college experience was more than just achieving top grades. “In just the past few months, the clubs I have joined have made a significant difference in my life. My educational experience is far more satisfying now.”

All four honorees are members of Phi Theta Kappa and have logged over 6,000 hours of combined service work for the campus and the community. The students all receive a four-semester tuition waiver from the Arizona Board of Regents to one of Arizona’s universities.

For achieving first-team status, Darilyn also receives a \$1000 cash award. Ashley, James, and John receive \$500 for third-team status. This year 63 students from around the state participated in the competition, which is sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, USA Today, and the American Association of Community Colleges. The All-USA Academic Team will be announced on April 11 in USA Today.

Elsner Library hosts photo exhibit on Depression-Era Arizona

From Hoover Hog Hunts to the New Deal, explore the images that portray the hard economic times of Arizona in the 1930s and the programs that began to restore hope and a sense of security. Photographers, like Dorothea Lange, traveled throughout Arizona documenting the depth and despair during this decade. Experience the emotions and reality of the times in a new photo exhibit running from February 1st-24th in the lobby of the Paul A. Elsner Library located on the MCC at Southern and Dobson campus. Admission is free.

Related Events

Arizona During the Depression:

New Deal Photography and Culture in the Southwest

Thursday, February 9th, 2006 Center for Teaching & Learning Conference Room, 6-7PM

Professor of Art History at ASU and author of *The Cowboy's Dream: The Mythic Life and Art of Lon Megargee*, Dr. Besty Fahlman will share images and insight into the fascinating cultural history of Arizona during the New Deal era.

This program was made possible by the Arizona Humanities Council.



The Depression-Era Arizona photo exhibit runs February 1-24

Of Citrus, Cotton, and Lettuce: Farming on the Southside during the Great Depression

Bring a brown bag lunch and join us for a glimpse of Mesa during the 1930's. Collection Manager at the Mesa Historical Museum and author of *Making Water Flow Uphill: The History of Agriculture in Mesa, Arizona*, Jared Smith will present images and discuss the history of agriculture in Mesa during the Great Depression.

Wednesday, February 15th , 2006 Media Services room AS121, noon-1PM

Readings from Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath

Librarian and avid reader, Jim Theilmann will read excerpts from the classic novel *Grapes of Wrath* where Steinbeck captured the mood of the country during the Great Depression.

Wednesday, February 22nd, 2006 Paul A. Elsner Library (Room TBA), 12-12:30PM

This exhibit was created by the Arizona Historical Society and supported with funds granted by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Agency under the Library Services Technology Act, which is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For more information contact Zoë Luter at 480-461-7286 or zoe.luter@mccmail.maricopa.edu.

Cancer Awareness Day at Red Mountain

Chances are your life has been touched by cancer in some way or another. Psi Beta students at the Red Mountain campus invite you to get involved with the upcoming American Cancer Society Relay for Life event April 1-2, 2006. To support this worthy cause, the Psi Beta chapter has formed a community-based team to participate in this annual cancer fundraiser. Teams will camp out overnight at Red Mountain High School on Saturday, April 1 and take turns walking, running, or jogging around the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times symbolizing that cancer never sleeps and that there is no finish line until a cure is found. This fun-filled overnight activity mobilizes communities across the nation to celebrate survivorship, remember those who lost their lives to cancer, and raise money for the fight against cancer. Money is raised through this American Cancer Society signature event by donations and sponsorship that members of each team secure from individuals, organizations, and corporations.

In order to raise cancer awareness and promote East Mesa's Relay for Life, the Psi Beta chapter will sponsor a FREE lunch at Red Mountain on Wednesday, February 15 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm in the Community Room. A program from 11:45 am – 12:30 pm will honor cancer survivors, describe what Relay for Life is all about and issue a call to action. Participants will have a chance to sign up for a team, enter drawings, purchase MCC goodie bags (donations to Relay), donate money, and sign up to volunteer for the event. Educational materials will also be distributed. Last year proceeds from this lunch resulted in nearly \$400 of donations for the American Cancer Society. For further information, stop by Red Mountain for lunch on February 15th or call Ed Lipinski at 480-654-7723.