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the

Bulletin

Blogging: Cool tool for education MCC Blogs for Education

This article, written in blog format, explores how blogging is used at Mesa Community College for educational purposes. Email your comments to snitzer@mail.mc.maricopa.edu.

Defining a blog

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Blog is short for weblog. It's a casual, online journal that is updated frequently, using software that allows people with little or no technical background to maintain the blog. Bloggers post thoughts, comments, and links that reflect their interests. Readers are encouraged to post a comment at the end of an entry.

To view MCC Media Arts Instructor Cyndi Greening's blog, go to: <http://cyndigreening.com>.

8:00 a.m. Leave a comment (0)

Post your passion

Monday, April 3, 2006

Successful blogs are dedicated to one particular topic and updated with the latest news, views, and trends. Cyndi, a prolific blogger whose blog runs on the AZCentral.com website, said blogging is a perfect tool for MCC faculty because it allows them to engage in international conversation, establish themselves as community experts, and can lead to book proposals.

"Most of us have been teaching for many years and we have a lot of passion for the topic that we study," Cyndi said. "We tend to track what the latest trends are. Putting it online lets students and people in the community see what we find interesting and important...People like to be around passionate people and learn from passionate people."

9:00 a.m. Leave a comment (0)

Online repository of information

Sunday, April 2, 2006

If a faculty member blogs just a few sentences a day, commenting on an article they've read or the publication of a new book, they soon find they've written hundreds of entries on a specific topic.

"I'm trying to get more faculty to do this because it's just awesome," Cyndi said. "I can take the last year of my blog and compile it into a PDF, and it's amazing how much information is in there."

8:35 a.m. Leave a comment (0)

Blogging benefits for students

Saturday, April 1, 2006

Faculty blogs show students that MCC has a very vibrant faculty who are connected and in touch. For students who blog, the process of writing entries allows them to reflect and organize their thoughts.

Donna Gaudet, Instructional Technologist with MCC's Center for Teaching and Learning, helped Richard Effland set up blogs for his anthropology students a couple of years ago. She said student blogs provide a place for expression from students who otherwise might not speak up in a classroom.

"There is sort of a layer of anonymity, so you can say things you really want to say," Donna said. "And, for the younger generation, blogging is more an everyday part of their world than it is for those of us who didn't grow up with it."

Donna maintains the CTL Teach and Tech blog, devoted to instructional technology and education at: <http://radio.weblogs.com/0150060>.

9:15 a.m. Leave a comment (0)

Not-so-obvious benefits

Friday, March 31, 2006

English faculty member Shelley Rodrigo incorporated student blogs into her film classes last fall and will use blogs in her English classes this summer. She pointed out a few not-so-obvious blog benefits.

"Using blogs is beneficial to the instructor because I do not have to carry home piles of journals—plus no killing trees!" Shelley said. "I am also able to subscribe to the RSS feeds (speedfeeds) in my RSS aggregator and have all the blogs pulled to one location instead of me going out to each individual website."

Examples of student blogs in Shelley's cinema class: <http://rrodrigo2.uniblogs.org>.

8:20 a.m. Leave a comment (0)

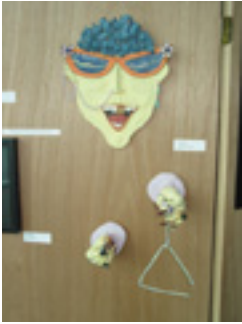
Beginning a blog

Thursday, March 30, 2006

For MCC staff interested in creating their own blog, Cyndi is willing to teach a workshop and claims she can help anyone set up a blog in under four minutes. For more information on blogs, contact Cyndi at 480-461-7423, cynematik@cox.net, or Donna at 480-461-7929, dgaudet@mail.mc.maricopa.edu.

Art Show Displays Depth and Diversity of Program and Students

The Annual Student Art Show at Mesa Community College kicked off last week and runs through April 13 in the Paul A. Elsner Library, Reading Room. Top student work from courses such as painting, sculpture, ceramics, drawing, computer animation and illustration, photography, and more will be on display and judged as part of the Art Department's awards program.



Kim Mendoza,
Anne Drodgenny,
Ceramics and
Gold Leaf

Sarah Capawana, chair of the department, discussed why Mesa Community College's department and students are so exceptional.

"The faculty and teaching are excellent, and the diversity and depth of talent of our students really allows for some unique learning exchanges. The format of the courses allows their unique perspectives to be shared and ultimately influence the creative process."

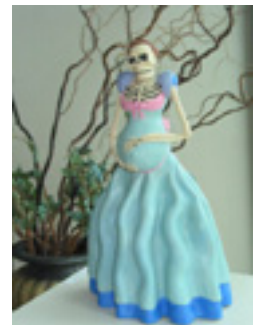
Brad Burnham is a traditional 23-year-old college student, taking courses as he completes his associate's degree and pursues a career in the field. Through the critiquing process in class, other students are able to share their opinions or impressions of his photography.

"There is often a big age difference of the students in my classes, but that is awesome because of all the different life experiences people have had. This is manifest in their work and in their critique feedback and ultimately helps to broaden everyone's horizons in the class. After different critiques or opinions are shared, I will often go out to shoot again and can do it from a new perspective because of the other students in class. In the end, it helps me as an artist."

Sylvia McCullough is a non-traditional 58-year-old returning student who already has a master's degree in social and cultural anthropology and several years in the business world. She began taking a few interesting art classes here and there with the department. However, the excellent faculty and classes encouraged her to become more focused. "I was so pleased that I found such an excellent program close to my home. The depth of the program and the ability to learn from high-quality instructors really has been a great opportunity for me. I am now working toward a master's degree in art and am able to constantly improve my technique and knowledge base."

She also commented on the varied perspectives in the class and how it enriches the overall experience. "The younger students have such a fresh perspective; they are passionate about different things and are always eager to try new technologies, techniques and formats for their art. The vital interactions that occur during the critiquing process both with the instructor's expertise and your classmate's varied perspectives are invaluable as an artist."

Sylvia was overwhelmed with the resources and opportunities within the department and the opportunity to gain such technical knowledge. "I think sometimes the younger students don't even know what they are a part of here, but I do, and I am taking full advantage of the opportunities. I am just so grateful that I found the program because I learn something wonderful with every faculty interaction I have. The other students also continue to help me as their perspective allows me to see things in a way I never would have on my own."



Lindsay Hancock,
Life After Death?
Ceramics

APIC wins the spirit of Qu Yuan Award

On March 18th and 19th, the MCC Asian Pacific Islander Club (APIC!) participated in the 3rd annual Dragon Boat Race at Tempe Town Lake. There were 38 teams competing from Arizona, California, Washington State, Taiwan, Oregon, and Canada. Our MCCSRPCU (MCC Salt River Project Credit Union) "Thunderdragons" Team won fifth place in the 250-Meter Sprint division and the Spirit of Qu Yuan.

The Spirit of Qu Yuan Award is for the team that best represents the cultures and diversity of dragon boat racing. MCC's team received the award because of the rich and diverse cultures represented as a team. "We are proud to be honored as diverse and multicultural," said Wendera Phung, Program Advisor for the Multicultural Services Department. The team would like to thank

the generous support of the SRP Credit Union, Multicultural Services, Dean of Student Affairs, and Student Life. The Dragon Boat Race was a prelude to the Asian Cultural Awareness Month Program in April.

The MCCSRPCU team won the Spirit of Qu Yuan award and placed 5th in the 250-Meter Sprint at the Dragon Boat Race.



Summer Camps at MCC

*“Being a child at home alone in the summer is a high-risk occupation.
If you call your mother at work thirteen times an hour, she can hurt you.” ~Erma Bombeck*

Extraordinary adventures await East Valley youngsters at Mesa Community College’s summer camps. From musical theatre workshops to basketball camps, kids can learn new skills while developing friendships with others who share similar interests.

MCC’S 2006 SUMMER CAMPS:

Alton Lister’s [FUNdamentals Basketball Camp](#) puts the fun in fundamentals such as dribbling, passing, rebounding, pivoting, and more. Lister brings more than 17 years of experience as an NBA player to the camp, along with great enthusiasm. The camp also features guest speakers, snacks, and the chance to work one-on-one with college-student athletes.

Ages: 1st-9th graders.

Place: MCC’s Theo Heap Gym.

Dates: 2 sessions: June 19-23 or June 26-30.

Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Cost: \$300 for full week, or \$150 for half day. Family discounts available.

Contact: Lister at 480-461-7540.

Alton Lister’s [Big Man/Tall Women Post Player Skill Development Camp](#) helps high school and college-age basketball players realize their goals. “Come ready to work,” says Manny Canales, volunteer assistant for the camp. “Lister is very detail-oriented and emphasizes the finer points. Anyone who attends can expect to be driven and improve every day.”

Ages: High school and college-age players.

Dates: 2 sessions: May 29-June 2 or July 31-Aug. 4.

Time: 1-4 p.m. for men, 5-8 p.m. for women. Cost: \$349

Contact: Lister at 480-461-5740.

[MCC Musical Theatre Workshops](#) stress techniques in singing, dancing, and acting. Each session culminates in a dazzling musical performance.

Workshop I: For grades 5-10. June 5-17 from 1:30 –5:30 p.m. Cost: \$275.

Workshop II: For grades 5-10. June 19-July 1 from 1:30-5:30 p.m. Cost: \$275

Workshop III: For grades 1-4. June 12-22 from 9-11 a.m. Cost: \$125.

Workshop IV: For grades 10-13. July 1-July 8 from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$275.

Contact MCC’s Center for Community Education at 480-461-7494 for information or visit http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d28/comm_ed/index.html.

[MCC Summer Jazz Workshop](#) provides high school and college students with an intense musical experience studying and performing jazz in a small group setting. Participants work with top educators and professional musicians from the Phoenix area and perform with their Jazz Combos in a final concert.

Past jazz workshop participant Andrew Barrett said the workshop was a fun experience and helped him develop phrasing, style, and above all, improvisation.

“Being a jazz lover, it’s great to play the music, particularly since my high school didn’t have a jazz band of its own,” Andrew said. “Plus, the music faculty at MCC is great.”

Dates: July 10-14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For workshop information, contact Fred Forney at 480-461-7576 or visit

<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/~roberthunter/SUMMERJAZZ.htm..>

Into the Streets/Into MCC!



ASMCC Activities Chair Faiana Prescott digs her volunteer work with the Into MCC program.

Faculty, staff, and community members are invited to join members of the Associated Students of Mesa Community College on Saturday, April 29, at MCC as they continue to convert unused areas of the campus to student space areas. This is the last event for what has been a busy

semester of monthly projects on campus that have revitalized the college's Into the Streets program.

Into the Streets is a program in which MCC students, staff, and faculty render service in the community and work to strengthen the ties between the college and the community. Into the Streets participants volunteer with the YMCA, Hacienda de Los Angeles, and many other local organizations.

"These projects open students' minds to community service," said Alison Whiting, program advisor of student life and leadership. "The Hacienda kids appreciated it so much—it touches their lives."

A new offshoot of the program, Into MCC, allows participants to work on smaller projects within the campus on a monthly basis. Alison said approximately 200 students are involved in the program each semester. By splitting the original program into one smaller activity per month, the program becomes more cost effective by reducing the number of bus rentals and

food donations. At the same time, it opens up even more choices for students to participate, both on and off campus.

Alison points with pride to an Into MCC project done in January that created a new outside student seating area by the Theatre Outback's mural wall. Student workers received assistance from several MCC employees for the project, including Life Science faculty member Ron Dinchak, who helped with the landscape design, and John Valpey, in the Theatre Arts department, who secured the funding for the two benches. Richard Cluff and Betty Shiel in the Maintenance department also assisted students as they planted plants, installed a drip system and benches, and spread granite. It's now an inviting place to sit and visit between classes or after theatre performances.

"The projects change a student's perspective of the campus and provide a feeling of ownership," Alison said.

Into MCC participants have also worked to clean up the Xeriscape Garden and helped the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society weed and mulch MCC's Rose Garden. The April 29 event begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Kirk Student Center. For more information, call Alison at 480-461-7285.



Betty Shiel in MCC's Maintenance Department helps student volunteers convert this unused space by the Theatre Outback into a student seating area.