



Mesa Community College (MCC) values you as alumni! Thousands of individuals have chosen MCC throughout our nearly four decades of service. In fact, some of you are returning for that additional course or program, or are sending your children and grandchildren to us.

Mesa Community College has had a long and positive history of alumni service on boards and committees. This year we will formalize this relationship with the official creation of an MCC Alumni Board of Directors. This alumni board will help advance our alumni program to a new level, one which is guided by alumni input, volunteerism, and community and college service. We also want to preserve Mesa Community College's traditions and recognize our former students. We will create a Wall of Fame in the Kirk Student Center, the very heart of our Southern and Dobson campus, to honor past student leaders.

I invite you to participate in the many alumni activities. Contact our coordinator of alumni and communications, Marcy Snitzer, to share your thoughts on how we can better serve our alumni or for opportunities to get involved with your College.

Sincerely,

Larry K. Christiansen

## MCC Theatre captures eleven 'Zoni nominations

Earning a nomination for one of Arizona's highly coveted ariZoni Awards is an achievement marking theatrical excellence. This year MCC's Theatre earned 11 such nominations.

*The Miser*, produced in October 2001, took six of the 11 nominations, including one for "Overall Production."

Lyn Dutson (faculty director of Theatre) was nominated both for her work as "Director" of the comedy and for "Costume Design." Jon Valpey, Fine Arts-Set Design coordinator, was nominated for "Lighting Design."

Students nominated for their roles in *The Miser* were Eric Gaede, "Actor in a Major Role"; and Jeff Phillips, Sean Kirsch, and Maria Escalier, "Hair and Makeup Design."

The additional MCC nominations include the following:

Jon Valpey for "Lighting Design" in *Of Mice and Men*

Jon Valpey for "Scenic Design" in *Of Mice and Men*

Lyn Dutson for "Costume Design" in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

Laura Johnson for "Sound Design" in *Of Mice and Men*

Anika Tisdale, student, for "Actress in a Supporting Role" in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

"Judging is competitive and rigorous," Dutson said. "Five judges review each show to determine outstanding quality according to their criteria. Judges are all theatre people, trained by the 'Zoni organization.'" She added, "Just being nominated is an honor. It's recognition for the excellence of work that we've been doing since the MCC theatre building opened in 1978. The 'Zoni organization is important to the Valley. It has brought the quality of theatre up—challenged us to be better."

MCC is the only community college in the state to participate in the competition and 2001-2002 was its fourth season to do so. Colleges and universities are evaluated in the "Non-Contracted Theatre" category. Professional Theatre and Children's Theatre are the two other 'Zoni categories. Visit MCC's events calendar at [mcweb.mc.maricopa.edu/calendar](http://mcweb.mc.maricopa.edu/calendar) for the 2002-2003 theatre listing. ♦

### MCC Alumni Running for Office

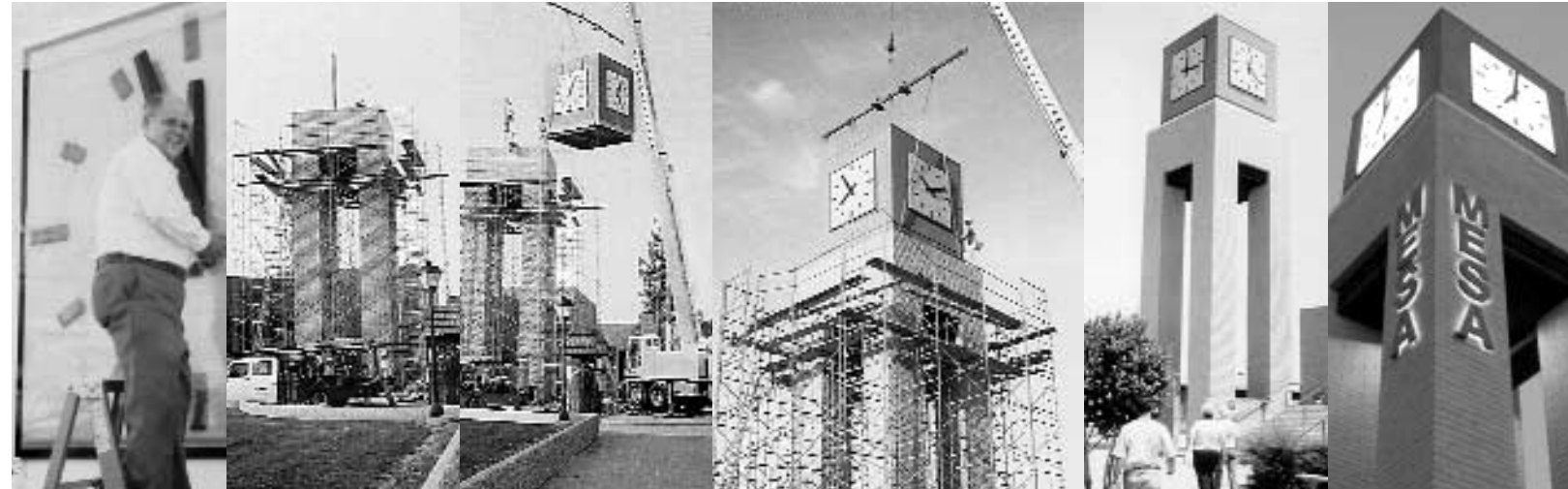
- ★ Chuck Gray  
House, District 19
- ★ Gary Pierce  
House, District 19
- ★ Thayer Verschoor  
State Senate  
(R) District 22
- ★ Laura Knaperek  
State Senate,  
(R) District 17
- ★ Matt Salmon  
Governor
- ★ Jeff Flake  
U.S. Representative  
(R) District 6

## The hands of time: MCC's alumni clock tower

Any newcomer to MCC at Southern and Dobson will notice the enormous clock tower in the center of campus. In fact, it is often pointed out to visitors as a landmark for giving directions. The clock tower has graced MCC's Southern and Dobson campus for over 10 years and symbolizes MCC's lifelong connection to alumni.

### The purpose

In the 80s, students determined that the Southern and Dobson campus needed a focal point, and a 56-foot clock tower that can be seen from almost any point on campus fit the bill. According to former Dean of Students Kaye McDonald, "The center of campus was thought to need a defining statement to identify the student area and to give directional assistance for students seeking the many services available to them."



### Dedication to alumni

In October 1990 the clock tower was dedicated to MCC's alumni during Homecoming activities. McDonald said the clock tower was dedicated to alumni "to acknowledge and express appreciation for their continued support of MCC and to ensure that the students feel a continuing tie to the college." A bronze plaque on the front of the tower reads:

*"This clock tower is dedicated to the Alumni of Mesa Community College. You will always be more than former students. You are our special friends. October 18, 1990."*

### A new look

During the 1998-99 school year, students felt that the clock tower not only was a focal point of campus but also symbolized Mesa Community College and should have MESA prominently displayed on it. Then president of

MCC's Student Government, Jared Langkilde, worked with Dr. Christiansen, president of MCC, to add the word MESA vertically to the clock tower's base on the north and west sides.

### Tower facts

- Clock tower height – approximately 56 feet.
  - Tower base – 43 feet.
  - Clock unit – approximately 13 feet.
- Each of the four clock faces are 7-foot-square.
- All four faces of the clock illuminate at night.
- The bell tolls every hour. Five minutes after the hour, a brief musical selection is played.
- The tower's bells are programmed through a seven-disc digital CD player. Solid-state amplifiers attached to weatherproof speakers ensure that the toll of the clock tower and its musical selections can be heard across campus. ♦

## The MCC Alumni Association wants you!



Marcy Snitzer,  
MCC Alumni  
Coordinator

MCC Alumni Relations is soliciting nominations to create an alumni board. The purpose of the board is to assist in the creation of a vibrant MCC Alumni Association. MCC is committed to recruiting a diverse board to be involved in the planning and direction of the association. It is our goal to ensure that the board membership represents a cross-section of alumni, spanning MCC's nearly 40 years of operation.

### What will you be committing to?

Board members will be asked to attend quarterly meetings and an annual board retreat. At our early meetings, board members will have an opportunity to plan for the future of MCC's alumni association by helping to set the association's mission, goals, and constitution. From there...the road is wide open. As coordinator of Alumni Relations, I have several ideas to share, and I'm looking forward to the new ideas and energy that a collaborative board will bring. It will be an exciting time as the college ventures into new territory in alumni relations!

### What is the nomination process?

Enclosed in this newsletter is a nomination form. If you are interested in volunteering for the board, or would like to recommend someone, please complete and return the prepaid form. A small committee of MCC alumni has been formed to review nominations. The committee will ensure that potential board members represent MCC's diversity relative to age, gender, and ethnicity, as well as look for attributes that will further diversify our board, such as occupation. The committee will be asked to forward a list of approximately 30 potential board members with whom the Office of Alumni Relations will follow up to discuss interest and time commitments to make the final selection.

I invite all interested alumni to submit a nomination form. Our goal is to finalize our selection of a 15-member board by January and conduct the first board meeting of the MCC Alumni Association in spring 2003. As an MCC alumna, I am looking forward to working with our volunteer board to advance our alumni association to new heights!

Sincerely,

Marcy Snitzer

Alumni & Friends is published by the Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) 3 times a year for alumni of Mesa Community College.

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### Wall of Fame to honor former ASMCC members

The Office of Alumni Relations, in cooperation with the Office of the President and Student Activities, will unveil an Associated Students of Mesa Community College (ASMCC) Wall of Fame in the Kirk Student Center in Spring 2003. The Wall of Fame will feature photos of former ASMCC presidents and their executive boards as well as ASMCC plaques

and memorabilia.

To prepare for the Wall of Fame, a reception will be held for former ASMCC members prior to the Homecoming Tailgate Barbecue and football game on Saturday, November 9. Please bring photos and other memorabilia to share with former classmates. If you would like to donate items to the project, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement – Alumni Relations at 480-461-7794.

Our goal is to have a portrait of each ASMCC President and his/her executive committee for display. Be ready to have your picture taken - a professional photographer will join us for the event to shoot portraits.

ASMCC members will be contacted in the upcoming weeks with additional details. For more information, suggestions, or contributions, please call Alumni Relations at 480-461-7794. ♦

## MCC section in *The Arizona Republic*

A special insert about Mesa Community College appeared in the October 7, 2002 issue of *The Arizona Republic*. The insert featured over 20 articles on topics ranging from academic programs, MCC students and faculty, to resources and services available on campus. Check it out at [www.azcentral.com](http://www.azcentral.com) or call MCC's Office of Institutional Advancement at 480-461-7445 for a copy. ♦





# MCC Offers New Opps in Nursing

In a creative effort to answer Arizona's critical need for nurses, MCC's School of Nursing is poised to offer three new programs to entice people into the profession:

1. English as a Second Language (ESL) Certified Nurse Assistant
2. Fast-Track Evening
3. Registered Nurse Refresher

## Nurse Assistant candidates study in Spanish

In January 2003, MCC will launch a Certified Nurse Assistant program for people whose primary language is Spanish, but who also have some proficiency in English. This program creates an opportunity for nontraditional students to gain entry into the healthcare industry and offers an avenue for gaining self-sufficiency and a better-paying job. It also responds to Arizona's dire shortage of Spanish-speaking healthcare professionals. Classes will be taught in Spanish. For more information, call ESL Coordinator Bertha Sepulveda, (480) 461-7660.

## Where are the Nurses?

MCC's Nursing Department is organizing an alumni chapter. If you graduated with a degree in Nursing, know someone who did, or would like to volunteer to serve on the organizing committee, please contact Alumni Relations at 480-461-7794.

## While the International Genome Consortium (IGC) was considering Phoenix as a potential research hub for biotechnology,

Mesa Community College was already training biotechnicians for this burgeoning industry.

MCC faculty and administrators anticipated bioindustry's needs – positioning MCC to be the only college in the Maricopa Community College District to have a biotech program in place when the industry arrives. More than three years ago, Dr. Denise Clark was hired to design and establish a biotech program. Denise opened

the intensive course of study. They will graduate in December 2003 with the traditional pinning ceremony.

The next Fast-Track Evening program will be off to a quick start in fall 2003. For more information, contact the Nursing Dept., (480) 461-7106.



Nursing Faculty member Terri Crews (left) and Dept. Chair Myrna Eshelman (right) develop innovative programs for Nursing students.

## Online refresher brings RNs back to nursing

The first of its kind in the western United States, MCC's online RN refresher course appeals to the 10 percent of Arizona's registered nurses who are currently unemployed but considering a move back into their profession. The Internet course is especially enticing to RNs who live in rural areas with no nearby college or university that offers a refresher.

MCC's new online course makes the return to nursing an easy one: Nurses work from their home computers and practice in their own hometowns. The first semester course is "theory" and the second is "clinical," where the student works with an RN preceptor in a hospital or other healthcare facility located near the student's home. For more information, contact Terri Crews, crews@mail.mc.maricopa.edu.

classes last year with fewer than a dozen students, hoping to entice 20 into the program by Fall 2002. Denise exceeded her goal by more than double; she now has 48 students.

"As time goes by," Denise said, "the IGC is expected to act as a catalyst, encouraging other bioindustry to the Valley. As bioindustry grows, we will have more and more opportunity to modify our program to reflect their unique employment demands."

Want to know more about biotechnology and the career options it offers? Visit Dr. Denise Clark's biotechnology website at [www.mc.maricopa.edu/~tdclark/html/at\\_mcc.html](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/~tdclark/html/at_mcc.html). Click on Genetic Disease, Agriculture, Biological Fuels, and more.

## Check out what's happening at MCC this Fall

Stay abreast of MCC events by checking the events calendar on the internet. The calendar is available through MCC's homepage at [www.mc.maricopa.edu](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu) by clicking on Maps and Calendars and scrolling down to the Events Calendar link. You can view many campus activities all on one calendar and even print a copy of it for easy reference. *Please keep in mind that the calendar is subject to continuous updates.*

Mention that you are alumni when purchasing tickets to receive a discount! Detailed information about Music, Dance, Art, and Theatre can be found at [www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d55/](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d55/)



The Maricopa County Community College District is an EEO/AA institution.

[thp/performance/index.shtml](http://thp/performance/index.shtml). Below is only a small sample of events we have planned for this semester. Visit the calendar online for additional events and information.

**October 10-13**  
**The Water Children**  
A Drama by Wendy MacLeod  
Theatre Arts, Theatre Outback

**October 24**  
**Psychology Evening Lecture Series**  
**"Youth and Violence: Voices From Within"**  
Kirk Student Center, Navajo Room

**October 31 – November 2**  
**Carousel**  
Music by Rogers and Hammerstein

Act 1 Musical Theatre Productions,  
Theatre Outback

**November 7-8**  
**Fall 2002 Dance Concert**  
Theatre Outback

**November 9**  
**Homecoming 2002**  
MCC vs. SCC Football  
John D. Riggs Stadium.

**December 5-8**  
**Bus Stop**  
Comedy by William Inge  
Theatre Arts, Theatre Outback

**December 13**  
**Fall Broadway Bound 2002**  
Music Department  
Scholarship Fund Raiser  
Theatre Outback

# Alumni & Friends

FALL 2002



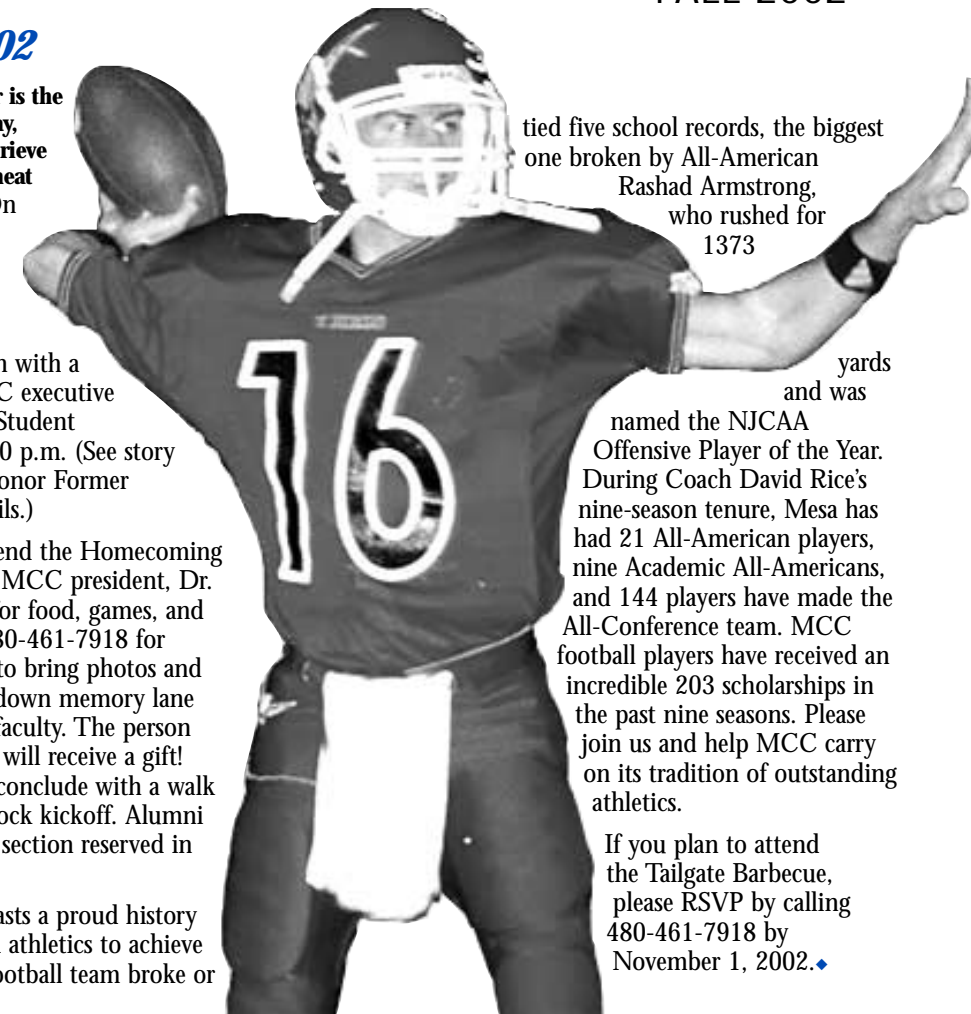
## Homecoming 2002

The return of cool evening air is the first sign that fall is on the way, bringing a much welcome reprieve from the sweltering summer heat and, with it, Homecoming. On November 9 the MCC Thunderbirds will take on the Scottsdale Community College (SCC) Artichokes.

The day's activities will begin with a reception for former ASMCC executive board members in the Kirk Student Center, Navajo Room at 2:00 p.m. (See story entitled "Wall of Fame to Honor Former ASMCC Members" for details.)

All alumni are invited to attend the Homecoming Tailgate Barbecue hosted by MCC president, Dr. Larry Christiansen. Join us for food, games, and entertainment (Please call 480-461-7918 for reservations). You're invited to bring photos and memorabilia to take a walk down memory lane with former classmates and faculty. The person who brings the most photos will receive a gift! The pregame festivities will conclude with a walk to the stadium for the 6 o'clock kickoff. Alumni are invited to sit in a special section reserved in their honor.

MCC's football program boasts a proud history of combining academics and athletics to achieve student success. The 2001 football team broke or



tied five school records, the biggest one broken by All-American Rashad Armstrong, who rushed for 1373

yards and was named the NJCAA Offensive Player of the Year. During Coach David Rice's nine-season tenure, Mesa has had 21 All-American players, nine Academic All-Americans, and 144 players have made the All-Conference team. MCC football players have received an incredible 203 scholarships in the past nine seasons. Please join us and help MCC carry on its tradition of outstanding athletics.

If you plan to attend the Tailgate Barbecue, please RSVP by calling 480-461-7918 by November 1, 2002.

## Homecoming Week of Activities

(All activities are at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus unless otherwise noted.)

**Fall 2002 Dance Concert**  
November 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. • Theatre Outback

**ASMCC Reception**  
November 9 at 2:00 p.m. • Kirk Student Center, Navajo Room

**President's Homecoming Tailgate Barbecue**  
November 9 at 4:00 p.m. • Grass area east of the Bookstore

**Homecoming Football Game against SCC**  
November 9 at 6:00 p.m. • John D. Riggs Stadium

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