

Alumni & Friends

FALL 2005

Celebrating 40 Years

Year 2005 is a time of celebration for Mesa Community College. It marks the college's 40-year history as a provider of excellence in education. In the spring and fall issues of *Alumni & Friends*, we are proud to highlight some of the college's most memorable milestones. In this issue we cover the most recent 20 years, 1986-present.

Explosive growth

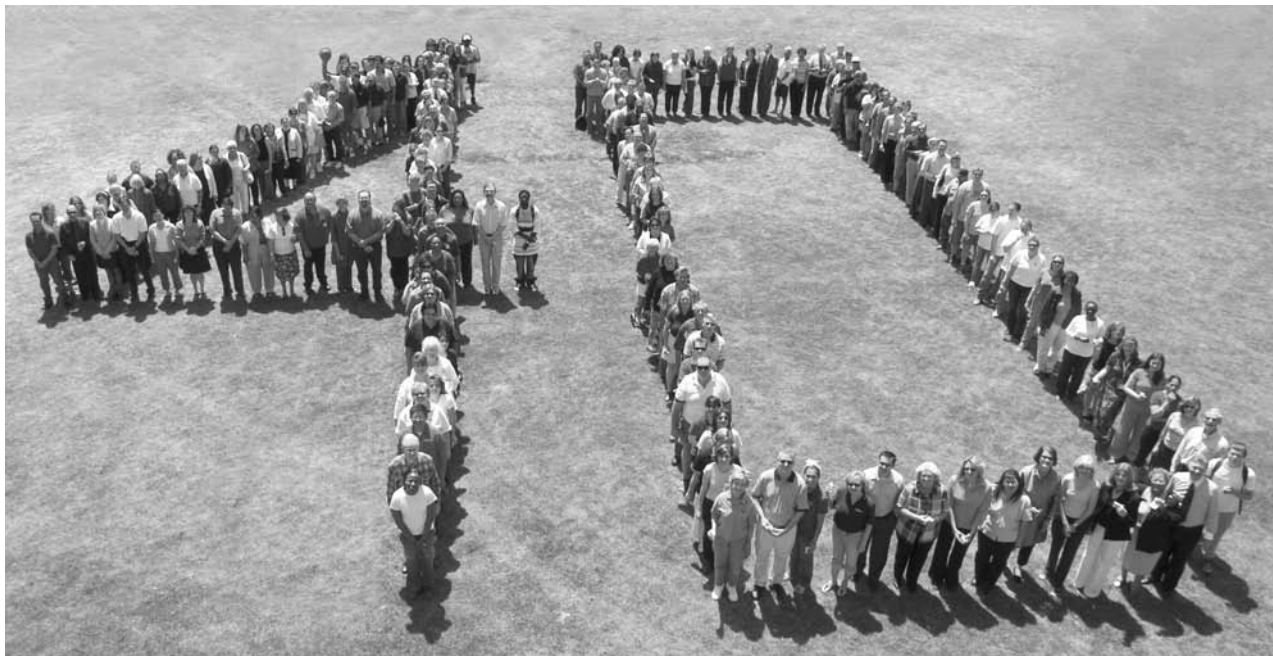
Dramatic changes took place at MCC between 1986 and 2005. As student enrollment climbed from 19,116 students to nearly 28,000 students, the college responded to changes in student demographics and new technology with a spirit of anticipation and innovation. MCC strengthened partnerships with the community, creating an environment dedicated to preparing students for citizenship in a changing society.

Changes were also occurring for MCC alumnus Arlen Sykes as he enrolled at MCC in 1996 after serving in the Navy. He said MCC faculty provided encouragement and support as he pursued his goals.

"The staff at MCC made me feel as though I could do anything," said Arlen, whose favorite memories include Psi Beta retreats and delivering hundreds of stuffed animals to a women's shelter. "The connections I made there helped me make a smooth transition as I furthered my education."

While Arlen was completing his teaching degree, MCC was busy expanding college facilities with the addition of the Red Mountain campus and five extended sites. The main campus kept up with technological advances by building a new library

and high technology complex, plus a new life science building. MCC deepened its commitment to the community by partnering with the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society to create a lush, 2-acre rose garden that has become a local landmark. Arlen also continued his active role in community activities after leaving MCC as president of the MCC Psi Beta Alumni chapter.



MCC employees, students, alumni, and community members commemorated the college's 40th birthday on April 12th by creating a human forty.

Two decades of growth at MCC culminated with a visit from President George W. Bush in 2004 and a 40th Birthday Celebration in 2005. Hundreds of employees, students, alumni, and community members gathered together to remember MCC's beginnings and celebrate its future.

"MCC has definitely made a name for itself in the community," Arlen said.

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A College GROWS (1986 -2005)

- 1986: Fall enrollment at MCC reached 19,116 students.
- 1988: MCC appointed current President Larry K. Christiansen.
- 1990: The dedication of the new 56-foot Alumni Clock Tower took place during Homecoming activities.
- 1995: MCC and community members formed the Commission on Excellence in Education, the college's primary community advisory group.
- 1997: MCC opened the East Campus at McKellips and Power roads to 700 students in temporary facilities. At the Southern and Dobson campus, the college dedicated the Rose Garden, the largest rose garden in Arizona.
- 1999: MCC dedicated the new Life Science building and the new Paul A. Elsner Library and High Technology Complex at Southern and Dobson.
- 2000: MCC opened the Center for Teaching and Learning, dedicated to faculty and staff development.
- 2001: MCC celebrated the grand opening of the MCC at Red Mountain campus in East Mesa. On the Southern and Dobson campus, the remodeled Advisement/Transfer Center and Kirk Center courtyard opened.
- 2003: The grand opening of the Cyber Café at the Southern and Dobson campus provided a place for students to snack and surf the Internet with wireless access.
- 2004: President George W. Bush visited MCC to discuss his proposal for a \$250 million federal grant for nationwide community college job training programs. MCC enrollment climbed to nearly 28,000 students at two campuses and five extended sites. To accommodate future growth, the Mesa City Council and the Maricopa Community College District began plans for an MCC Downtown campus.

Local FIELD TRIPS for Alumni

The Alumni Relations Office, in conjunction with the Alumni Board, proudly announces a new series of local field trips. We hope you will be able to join us for an opportunity to connect with other alums while learning something new!



View of the new Mesa Arts Center in Mesa, Arizona

Mesa Arts Center Tour November 17, 2005 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Look behind the scenes of the new Mesa Arts Center! The Mesa Arts Center is the largest center in the State of Arizona and the only center offering comprehensive professional performing arts, visual arts, and arts education programming on the campus. The campus has three buildings located on seven acres: Theatres Complex, Mesa Contemporary Arts, and Art Studios. *(Information provided by the Mesa Arts Center.)*

The tour is limited to 20 people and spaces will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. Admission is free.

For more information about the Mesa Arts Center, please visit www.mesaartscenter.com.

Desert Botanical Garden Tour December 9, 2005 1:30 – 4:30 PM

Enjoy a guided tour entitled “The Plants and People of the Sonoran Desert.”

Tour description: The Sonoran Desert contains more than 400 edible plants and hundreds more with medicinal and utilitarian uses. This tour demonstrates how native people used the unique plants of this region. The guided tour takes the group through an Apache Wickiup and Pima

household, revealing native cooking and gardening techniques along side hands-on activities such as twisting a rope made from Agave leaves and pounding mesquite beans to make flour. *(Information provided by the Desert Botanical Gardens.)*

The tour is limited to 25 people and spaces will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. The association has arranged for a discounted group rate of \$12 per person. In order to receive the discounted price, all participants must arrive by van pool.

For more information about the Desert Botanical Gardens please visit www.dbg.org.



Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Boyce Thompson Arboretum Located in Superior, Az January 21, 2006 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Boyce Thompson Arboretum is one of Arizona's oldest and largest botanical gardens with over two miles worth of trails to enjoy. MCC Life Science faculty member Ron Dinchak will offer a guided tour of the arboretum on January 21, 2006.

The tour is limited to 30 people and spaces will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. The association has arranged for a discounted group rate of \$6.50 per person. In order to receive the discounted price, all participants must arrive by van pool.

To reserve your space for any of these field trips, please contact Jennifer LaForge at jenner@mail.mc.maricopa.edu or 480-461-7794. Please include your name, your guest's name (only one guest per alumna/s), and a contact phone number.

MCC Athletics Earns National Honor

MCC is the recipient of the 2004-05 Pepsi/National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators award for program excellence in two-year college athletics.

“To have our athletic program designated the best in the country ...is a tremendous honor,” said MCC president Larry K. Christiansen. Join in congratulating the Athletic Department and the 2004-05 Athletic teams at Homecoming!

Stats:

- 12 of MCC’s 16 teams qualified for national tournaments
- 9 All-Americans
- 4 Academic All-Americans
- 4 athletes set national records in their respective sports
- 4 coaches received postseason Coach of the Year recognition

Alumni Association Increases Scholarships Available to Students

Providing financial support to current students through scholarships is the intent of the association’s new annual fundraiser, *The Alumni Legacy Campaign*. The campaign’s goals are to increase both the number of scholarships awarded and the amount of each award. The alumni board is pleased to announce that, thanks to your generosity, the association is doubling the number of scholarships available to students and increasing the amount of each scholarship to \$1,500 per academic year. To learn more about the campaign or to make a donation, please contact the Development Office at 480-461-7356.

Alumni Legacy Campaign



MCC alumna Lori Towne will direct this fall’s production of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, a swashbuckling, romantic musical. Set during the peak of the French Revolution, this is a tale brimming with intrigue, betrayal, honor, and love. The character of the disguised, justice-seeking Scarlet Pimpernel is often cited as an early precursor of the superhero of American comic books.



MCC Alumna Lori Towne (left) demonstrates physical energy to music theatre student Nichol Meshew for the fall production of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

Music Department chair Sue Anne Lucius said she immediately thought of Lori when she knew she needed a director for the production.

“Lori is sharp, talented and detail-oriented,” said Sue Anne, who had Lori as a student 15 years ago. “It’s exciting to have someone who grew up in the program at MCC and knows the demographics. It’s a good fit.”

Lori earned a bachelor’s degree in music theatre performance from Arizona State University after leaving MCC in 1989. She founded and directed the Phoenix Center Youth Theatre in 1995, then returned to MCC as an adjunct faculty member in 1999. Since that time, Lori has directed about 20 MCC musical productions. “I love having the opportunity to work here,” Lori said. “It feels like coming back home again.”

Check out what’s happening at MCC this Fall

Additional information and events can be found on MCC’s online event calendar at www.mc.maricopa.edu/events.

October 6-9

Kill Joy

Theatre Arts - Theatre Outback

October 17

Psychology Evening Lecture Series

“Bullying: Mean Girls”

Dr. Marolyn Haws and

Dr. Stephanie Tennille

Navajo Room – 7:00 PM

October 19

Empty Bowls

Kirk Student Center, Navajo Room

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

October 22

Homecoming

MCC vs. Arizona Western College

7:00 PM

October 26-29

The Scarlet Pimpernel

Act I Musical Theatre - Theatre Outback

October 27

Domestic Violence Awareness

Conference

Please check the online event calendar at www.mc.maricopa.edu/events for additional information.

November 3-4

Fall 2005 Dance Concert

Theatre Outback

November 5

Benefit Golf Tournament for

Women’s Basketball

Shalimar Country Club

10:00 AM

Call 480-461-7544 for details

November 16

Psychology Evening Lecture Series

“The Appreciative Stance: A strength bases approach to working with people”

Dr. Libby Howell

Navajo Room – 7:00 PM

December 1-4

Our Country’s Good

Theatre Arts - Theatre Outback

Opening reception to meet the cast and crew immediately following the performance on December 1st.

SURFING THROUGH TIME

HOME COMING 2005



Alumni to be honored as part of 40th anniversary celebration at Homecoming 2005

The Office of the President and the MCC Alumni Association invite you and a guest to celebrate 40 years of educational and student excellence.

Saturday, October 22, 2005

4:30 PM 40th Anniversary Commemorative Rose Planting honoring MCC alumni, students, and employees
Rose Garden, Southern and Dobson campus

5:00 PM Barbecue*
Center Courtyard, Southern and Dobson campus

The MCC Alumni Association will host a silent auction to raise funds for student scholarships

Homecoming Program begins at 6:00 PM

7:00 PM Homecoming Football Game
MCC Thunderbirds vs. Arizona Western College Matadors

Make your reservation by 5:00 PM Monday, October 17 by calling 480-461-7501 or online at www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni

**In case of inclement weather, the barbecue will be relocated to the Kirk Student Center Lobby and Navajo Room.*



Interested in connecting with other alumni and the college but can't attend Homecoming? Look inside to learn about other activities at MCC and the association's newest service...local field trips for alumni!

WANTED: NOMINATIONS FOR ALUMNI AWARDS

The Alumni Relations Office is now accepting nominations for the 2006 Alumni Achievement Award. The Alumni Achievement Award is presented annually in recognition of the accomplishments and service contributions of MCC alumni to their professions, their communities, and MCC. Awardees will be honored in the spring.

Nomination Process

Submit a letter highlighting the individual's accomplishments, volunteerism, and work history. Supporting materials may also be submitted with the nomination. Please include contact information for both the nominee and person submitting the nomination.

Mail or e-mail your nomination to:

Marcy Snitzer
Mesa Community College
Office of Alumni Relations
1833 West Southern Avenue
Mesa, AZ 85202
E-mail – Marcy.Snitzer@mcmail.maricopa.edu
Nominations are due December 19, 2005.

To view past awardees, visit the Alumni website at www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni and click on Awards and Recognition.