

# Homecoming Festival and Football Game

MCC at Southern and Dobson Campus  
1833 West Southern Avenue  
Mesa AZ 85202  
John D. Riggs Stadium  
Festival on field adjacent to the south end.  
Rain or Shine!

**Saturday, October 23, 2010**

**5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Festival**  
**7:00 p.m. Football Game**

**MCC Thunderbirds vs. Glendale Gauchos**

**RSVP today at [www.mesacc.edu/homecoming](http://www.mesacc.edu/homecoming)**

Entertainment, food, and games for the entire family  
Festival activities are **FREE!**

Online auction to fund student scholarships. Please visit  
[web.mesacc.edu/auction/homecoming](http://web.mesacc.edu/auction/homecoming).

### Come join the fun!

Balloon Animals • Caricature artist • Live Band – Peppermint James  
Photo booth • Tarot card readings • Pop-a-shot basketball  
Gametruck • Inflatable obstacle course • Facepainting  
Pictures with the MCC Thunderbird – bring your own camera  
Winner of MCC Thunderbird naming contest will be announced

**Catered by Whiskey Ranch BBQ**  
First come, first served while supplies last.



Alumni Relations  
1833 West Southern Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85202

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# Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association

## MCC Student

**MAKES THE MOST OF MCC ELECTRONICS PROGRAM/FAA PARTNERSHIP**



When Ernesto Mendoza entered the Electronics Technology Program at Mesa Community College, he had absolutely no prior electronics knowledge or experience.

Today, as a result of his MCC degree, he is employed by the Federal Aviation Administration as an Airway Transportation System Specialist. It's a job he loves and one that has excellent career possibilities.

Airport. Students who enroll in the program must complete a year before they are eligible to apply to the FAA for the program.

Students who are accepted become FAA interns and work part-time for the FAA in their local offices in Tempe, with the understanding that they are required to complete their AAS degree in Electronics Technology. The FAA works around student academic schedules to make sure they can

Neglia said although the FAA says that there is no guarantee of hire, all of the MCC students who have gone through the program have been offered full-time, permanent positions with the FAA.

"This is a terrific, recession-proof and offshore outsourcing-proof career," Neglia said. "It's recession proof because airports and air travel are not going away. Even in the worst of times, air travel continues. And regardless of travel volume, the airport electronics must always be fully operational. This requires technicians. It is also offshore outsourcing-proof because the electronics technicians must be physically at the airports where the equipment is."

**“I came into the program so inexperienced that I did not even know what a digital multimeter was,” Mendoza said. “I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would land a fantastic career like I did with just an associate degree.”**

MCC Electronics Program director JD Neglia remembers Mendoza as a dedicated student who was not afraid to take risks.

"Rarely do I see students with such a single-minded focus on such a specific goal," Neglia said. "He had heard of our FAA partnership and wanted to get started as soon as possible. It was a joy to see him work through the program from beginning to end, letting absolutely nothing get in his way."

Neglia said MCC's Electronics Technology Program is the only FAA-certified electronics program in Arizona and the primary supplier of technicians for Sky Harbor

finish. Once they complete the AAS degree, they are eligible for full-time, permanent hire by the FAA.

Mendoza and his fellow classmate, John Deluca, were accepted to the FAA program and finished their degrees. Mendoza's first initial training lasted two months and Deluca has continued with his training because of his discipline.

"John and I both love our jobs," Mendoza said. "The degree that I earned and worked very hard for at MCC has been worth its weight in gold."

Mendoza's starting salary with the FAA is \$40,000 with an additional \$6,750 for locality pay.

Mendoza said the program is a fantastic opportunity for all MCC electronic technology students.

"The possibilities are amazing," Mendoza said. "Students should never have the mentality that they will never be qualified. I didn't think I was qualified when I first applied, but here I am now."

MCC electronics graduates work in industries such as aerospace, biotechnology, communications, entertainment, medical, power, and transportation. For more information, visit [www.mesacc.edu/dept2/electronics](http://www.mesacc.edu/dept2/electronics) or call 480-461-7385.

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MCC  
Alumni Association

**EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN**

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

Editor Marcy Snitzer  
Phone 480.461.7792  
Email [marcy.snitzer@mcmail.maricopa.edu](mailto:marcy.snitzer@mcmail.maricopa.edu)

Fall Events –  
[www.alumniconnections.com/mcc](http://www.alumniconnections.com/mcc) and  
click on the Events Calendar

## Mark Your Calendar

**OCTOBER 4-14**  
Art Faculty Show  
October 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Awards and Reception  
Navajo Room, Southern and Dobson Campus

**OCTOBER 15, 7:00 P.M.**  
Family Discovery Series  
Search and Rescue: What to do when you lose your parents in the wilderness  
Saguaro Building, Red Mountain Campus

**OCTOBER 18, 7:00-9:00 P.M.**  
Evening Lecture Series  
The Power of Influence and Persuasion in Psychology  
Navajo Room, Southern and Dobson Campus

**OCTOBER 20, 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. AND 5:00-8:00 P.M.**  
Empty Bowls, Fundraiser for Paz de Cristo  
Navajo Room, Kirk Student Center, Southern and Dobson Campus

**OCTOBER 21-23, 25, 28-30, 7:30 P.M.**

**OCTOBER 23, 2:00 P.M.**  
Oliver  
Theatre Outback, Southern and Dobson Campus

**OCTOBER 23**  
Homecoming Festival, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
Football Game, 7:00 p.m.  
John D. Riggs Stadium, Southern and Dobson Campus

**OCTOBER 27, 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. AND 5:00-8:00 P.M.**  
Empty Bowls, Fundraiser for Paz de Cristo  
Community Room, Mesquite Building, Red Mountain Campus

**NOVEMBER 2, 7:00-9:00 P.M.**  
Evening Lecture Series in Psychology, Psychological  
Mythbusting: How Common Sense Can Be So Wrong  
Navajo Room, Southern and Dobson Campus

**NOVEMBER 4 – 5, 7:30 P.M.**  
Butterflies, Fall Dance Production  
Theatre Outback, Southern and Dobson Campus

**NOVEMBER 5, 6:00-10:00 P.M.**  
Astronomy Nights, Planetarium shows every half hour  
Southwest Physical Science Building, Southern and Dobson Campus

**NOVEMBER 17, 7:00 P.M.**  
Honors Lecture Series  
The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies  
Young Americans and Jeopardizes our Future  
Navajo Room, Southern and Dobson Campus

**NOVEMBER 19, 7:00 P.M.**  
Family Discovery Series  
Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation: Tradition and Culture  
Saguaro Building, Red Mountain Campus

**DECEMBER 3, 6:00-10:00 P.M.**  
Astronomy Nights, Planetarium shows every half hour  
Southwest Physical Science Building, Southern and Dobson Campus

**DECEMBER 3-4, 9-11, 7:30 P.M.**  
**DECEMBER 5, 11, 2:00 P.M.**  
The Taming of the Shrew  
Theatre Outback, Southern and Dobson Campus

**DECEMBER 10, 7:00 P.M.**  
Fall Dance Classes Showcase  
East Gym, Southern and Dobson Campus  
Scholarship Fundraiser

**DECEMBER 17, 7:00 P.M.**  
Songs of the Season Celebration  
Saguaro Building, Red Mountain Campus

**JANUARY 28-29, FEBRUARY 3-5, 7:30 P.M.**  
**JANUARY 30, FEBRUARY 5, 2 P.M.**  
The Crucible  
Theatre Outback, Southern and Dobson

For a complete listing of events and times, check out our online calendars.

**GENERAL MCC EVENTS** [www.mesacc.edu/alumni](http://www.mesacc.edu/alumni) then click EVENTS CALENDAR **ATHLETICS** [www.athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules](http://www.athletics.mesacc.edu/schedules)

### Fall 2010

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[www.mesacc.edu/alumni](http://www.mesacc.edu/alumni)

## President's Corner



It has been two and a half very fast years since I joined Mesa Community College as its 6th president. What a privilege it is to lead this great institution through a time of change and new directions! It is a pleasure to see the unwavering commitment of the College's faculty, staff, and administrative leadership to the success of each and every one of our students. We have made important progress on many fronts.

As I have said many times since I came to MCC, to remain a community college of distinction we must have success on three fronts: student success, employee success, and community success. To lay the framework for this institutional focus, we engaged faculty, staff, students, and community members in a thoughtful yet bold envisioning process that led to a new set of vision, mission and value statements. Further, we identified four Strategic Priorities that focus on student success and retention, workforce development, resource acquisition, and online learning.

There are many initiatives underway that support the above focuses, the newest being a Communities Learning in Partnership (CLIP) Implementation Grant. Through a \$3 million grant awarded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the City of Mesa, Mesa Public Schools, and MCC will work together to increase college completion rates among low income 16-26 year olds.

To learn more about other accomplishments and initiatives underway at MCC, I hope you will find the time to go to view my Report to the Community at [www.mesacc.edu/report](http://www.mesacc.edu/report).

I welcome your feedback and appreciate your continued support of Mesa Community College.

Sincerely,

Shouan Pan, Ph.D.

Visit the Report to the Community at [www.mesacc.edu/report](http://www.mesacc.edu/report).

Contact Dr. Shouan Pan at 480-461-7300.

## MCC Alumnus

Creates Endowment to Assist Students

Mesa Community College graduate Jamey Taylor's college experience has inspired him to create an endowment with the Maricopa Colleges Foundation to assist financially-strapped students pursuing higher education. His planned gift of \$50,000 will be distributed between four departments at MCC and provide a variety of resources to students with financial need. "MCC was like a home away from home for me, encouraging me and supporting me academically," said Taylor, who attended MCC from 1992-2000. "I hope this helps students have less of a financial burden."

His passion for encouraging others began when Taylor was a student. He started a disability club, became a member of Phi Theta Kappa and wrote for the student newspaper. He became a student advocate, attending district board meetings and bringing back information to the students. Taylor graduated with a degree in General Studies in 2000.

Taylor's donation will honor his deceased parents and come from The Jamey, Florence and Thomas Lee Taylor Foundation. A portion of the money is earmarked for MCC's Disability Department, where he received assistance when he was a student.



The money will be distributed as follows:

**\$10,000 to the Disability Department, half of which will be used for material and equipment and half for student testing expenses, to be paid to the physician.**

**\$10,000 to the Counseling Department to help students with financial need purchase textbooks.**

**\$25,000 to the Testing Center to remodel a room and pay for GED testing for students with financial need. A plaque will be placed in the center with information on the donation.**

**\$5,000 to the Tutoring Center for tutoring assistance and the purchase of upgraded software equipment.**

"I am providing this money to give back," Taylor said. "The gift says, 'Hey, I was in your shoes,' and will encourage others to give back as well and to do it in an unselfish way."

Taylor's donation will come from his estate and is an example of a planned gift. Making a bequest to MCC through a will or trust is a way to demonstrate a commitment to education for future generations. Whether it's a specific dollar amount or a gift of property, planned gifts ensure access and opportunity for many students and provide specific tax advantages for donors.

MCC's Director of Development, Jared Langkilde, said Jamey is an excellent example of a graduate who has successfully completed his studies at MCC and is doing great things in our community.

"It is humbling to see former students like Jamey, pause the pace of a busy life for a moment of reflection and decided to give back to the place and people that helped him begin his life's journey after high school," Langkilde said.

For more information on making a planned gift or bequest to MCC, please contact the Development Office at 480-461-7356.



## NEW Frontiers Group Gives Back

During the first few hectic days of fall registration at Mesa Community College, many volunteers assisted students by providing directions, information or just a welcoming smile and handshake.

One invaluable source of volunteers for registration and other events is MCC's New Frontiers for Lifelong Learning group. It's a peer-led membership organization for older adults and offers opportunities for lifelong learning through interactive study groups, travel, social and volunteer activities. MCC provides offices and other facilities for the group. For fall registration alone,

New Frontiers volunteers provided about 25 volunteers who donated more than 500 hours to assisting MCC students.

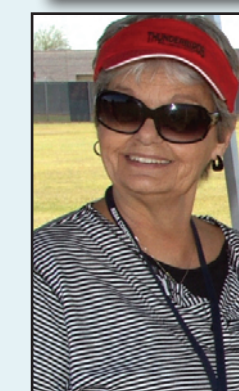
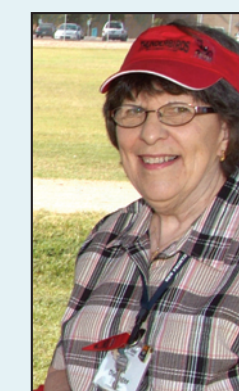
**Bruce Reid, head of the New Frontiers' volunteer committee, said his volunteers like to stay active and be useful. "The college gives us so much, that in these times of budget cuts, we love to step in and give back," Reid said.**

During the spring 2010 semester, New Frontiers contributed 390 volunteer hours directly to MCC activities. Most of that was done in support of registration at the Dobson and Red Mountain campuses. They also funded three \$1,000 scholarships for MCC students this past year. Reid said he and his wife, Joy, enjoy not only volunteering, but also the educational travel opportunities the group offers.

**"We've been on 26 trips in Arizona and haven't covered the same place twice," Reid said. "There is so much to see and do in Arizona, from the scenic beauty of southeastern Arizona to the museums and history in Tucson." Reid said the trips have also taken them to offbeat places such as a Camel Farm near Yuma and a town so small it has only a handful of residents.**

New Frontiers has approximately 450 members and is continually growing. Other activities include computer courses, community service projects, hiking adventures, literary discussions, studio art groups and theater parties. The group is a resource for helping adults set goals and activities for their individual learning interests, which, according to members, also often leads to diverse, rewarding friendships.

New Frontiers is always actively seeking new ways and opportunities to participate, as well as new members. For more information on New Frontiers, visit <http://www.newfrontiers-mesa.org> or contact (480) 461-7497.



## MCC Alumna

Gabriela Jacobsen

## Receives Interior Design Awards

In spring of 2008, Gabriela Jacobsen enrolled in Mesa Community College after the economic downturn freed up time to fulfill a long-time desire to earn a college degree. Using her 14 years of work experience designing and manufacturing custom window treatments and upholstery, she took classes and completed an AAS degree in Interior Design last December.

*"My learning experience at MCC set the tone for where I wanted to be in my career," Jacobsen said. "With the help and encouragement of very talented and dedicated MCC instructors such as Sally Kroelinger, C.J. Robb and Anne Swogger, I was inspired to go even further."*

Gabriela applied twice for an American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) scholarship and was recognized by the ASID as a top student two years in a row. She received second place in 2009 and a first place scholarship worth \$1,500 in 2010. She is continuing her studies in pursuit of a bachelor's degree at Northern Arizona University.

*"For me, winning those two scholarships changed everything," Jacobsen said. "It proved that through hard work and dedication I was able to reach to the high standards ASID stands for. Winning those two scholarships supported and motivated me even more."*

In addition to the ASID scholarships, Jacobsen was recently notified that she won another student competition sponsored through the International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA) for her winning design that will be used for the grand entrance of the IFDA Tableau 2010 event.

After graduating from NAU, Jacobsen plans to obtain National Council for Interior Design Qualification and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification and apply to graduate school at Arizona State University.

*"I truly believe that if it wasn't for the positive experience I had at MCC, I would not be where I am today," Jacobsen said. "I want to thank all faculty members who supported and motivated me."*

## Psi Beta Students Contribute to Community

Applause to the many students who find time amidst busy school and work schedules to volunteer in our community. Here are highlights from Psi Beta, one of MCC's many clubs and honor societies.



Psi Beta students hold two barbecue and activity fairs each spring and fall at Sunshine Acres Children's Home.

In 2009, the Psi Beta Holiday Toy Fair brought in 200 new toys and over \$500 in cash and gift cards for the Mesa Fire Department Toy Drive.

Psi Beta students provided over 500 volunteer hours and raised over \$2,500 for East Mesa's Relay for Life in April 2010.

Psi Beta is the National Honor Society in Psychology for community and junior colleges. Its mission is to offer professional development in the areas of scholarship, leadership, research, and community service.