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the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Mesa Community College Launches Social Media Survey

MCCConnect....Join the Conversation explores social media habits



Social media sites such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, MySpace and LinkedIn have taken the Internet by storm and changed the way people communicate in their personal and business lives.

Mesa Community College and Content Connections want to know how students, parents and community members use social media sites and what they think about MCC.

MCCConnect...Join the Conversation, is a brief survey designed to help the college better understand how people access this new communication tool and in turn better communicate with them.

“This survey is a unique opportunity for the college to engage in a conversation with our most important stakeholders,” said Sonia Filan, director of MCC’s Institutional Advancement Office. “We hope to better understand how they use social media sites and how they are influenced by them.”

The semester-long survey will be posted online for six weeks, followed by two town-hall style focus groups April 7 and 14.

“Social media is changing the way people live, interact, and engage with others,” said David Brake, CEO of Content Connections. “The relationship between a community college and its stakeholders is an important one, and this study will explore social media-related behaviors and attitudes across MCC’s value chain.”

Students, parents and community members are invited to contribute to the conversation. Participants who complete the survey will be eligible to enter a drawing to win a prize.

Survey Dates:

Now through March 31

Please join the conversation at

<http://www.contentconnections.com/mcconnect>

MCC Hosts Launch Party for New Wii Game, Deadly Creatures

Mesa Community College and THQ’s critically-acclaimed Rainbow Studios will join forces to launch THQ’s Deadly Creatures™, an original action thriller title created exclusively for the Wii™ home entertainment system. Deadly Creatures throws players into a venomous world of desert terror, where the greatest victory is survival. Players follow the entwined adventures of an armored scorpion and a stealthy tarantula as they struggle against a variety of creatures including vicious Gila monsters, tarantula wasps, black widows, and the most dangerous predator of all – Man. Actors Billy Bob Thornton and Dennis Hopper lend their famous voices to the human characters in the game.



“Deadly Creatures is a creepy, cinematic thrill ride, where the distinction between predator and prey can shift around every corner,” said Nick Wlodyka, executive producer and general manager, Rainbow Studios. “With brutal motion-controlled combat, a dark compelling story and some of the best visuals to date on the Wii, we are excited to bring Deadly Creatures to a large core Wii audience that hungers for a new experience.”

To celebrate the release of Deadly Creatures, MCC invites the public to Deadly Creatures Launch Party on Feb. 28. The event gives gamers the opportunity to be among the first to experience the game while learning about MCC’s newest associate degree programs in game technology and multimedia/business technology.

“The game’s premise ... ‘where players are thrown into a venomous world of desert terror and the greatest victory is survival’ ... correlates with why we at MCC are “deadly serious about education,” said Nicki Maines, MCC business faculty member and director of MCC’s summer video game camp at Studio 180. “In order to survive in today’s competitive marketplace, higher education is essential.”

Event attendees will have the opportunity to play alongside Deadly Creatures game creators on a big screen. There’s also a chance to win prizes, view live deadly creatures from MCC’s life science department and obtain information about MCC programs, financial aid and other student services.

What: Deadly Serious About Education

When: 12-4 p.m., Feb. 28.

Where: Mesa Community College’s Kirk Student Center, 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa.

To get a taste of what’s in store, visit <http://www.deadlycreaturesgame.com/>.

View videos at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NT_B69F8USY.

Visit Deadly Creatures on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Deadly-Creature+Wii/63081186322>.

To learn more about Rainbow Studios, check out www.rainbowstudios.com.

MCC’s Red Mountain Campus Contemplates “The World Without Us”

Without humans on the earth, what traces of humans would linger? What would disappear?

How long would it take for asphalt jungles to give way to real ones?

Students at MCC’s Red Mountain Campus will be contemplating these thoughts as they delve into author Alan Weisman’s book, *The World Without Us*, which examines humanity’s impact on the planet. Drawing on the expertise of engineers, scientists, astrophysicists and other experts, the book illustrates what Earth might be like if not for us.



It's all part of the One Book project at MCC's Red Mountain campus. MCC psychology instructor Ed Lipinski said this is the second year the campus has chosen a book for the entire campus to read and discuss.

"We always try to be topical and choose a book with broad appeal that can be used across academic disciplines," Lipinski said. "It's a big issue now, to save resources, including economic resources as well."

Students will not only read and discuss the book, they'll also take the project one step further by holding a monthly activity related to themes in the book. In addition, special

related service projects will be done by Psi Beta and Phi Theta Kappa members.

This month, the campus will show National Geographic's *Aftermath: Population Zero*, followed by a discussion.

In March, the campus' annual Mountain Madness event will spotlight the book and students will conduct an environmental survey during the event. The survey is designed to find out the scale of environmental consciousness of people in different demographic groups.

In April, One Book activities draw to a close with book-related presentations and displays by students who participate in the Student Success Showcase.

And, to emphasize the environmentally-conscious atmosphere of the Red Mountain Campus, students plan to create a filmed tour of the new building currently being constructed. The film will point out sustainable features that tie into *The World Without Us*.

Lipinski said the goal of the project is to get people thinking.

"We try to stimulate critical thinking," Lipinski said. "We don't care what opinions the students express, we just want them to think. The book lends itself to that simply by its nature."

Events (open to all MCC students and the general public):

Feb. 27, 8 a.m.-10:50 a.m., MCC's Red Mountain Campus Community Room. Film Showing and Discussion of National Geographic's *Population Zero*.

March 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., MCC's Red Mountain Campus courtyard. The annual March Madness event will feature fun events to bring awareness to the campus. Students will conduct environmental surveys at this time.

April 29, 5:30 p.m., MCC's Red Mountain Campus. The Student Showcase event will feature student displays and presentations, including those featuring *The World Without Us*.

International Film Festival

An exclusive sneak film preview and a personal appearance by film director Hirokazu Kore-eda will be the highlights of the sixth annual Mesa Community College International Film Festival, March 3-7.

MCC teams up with Harkins Arizona Mills theatre to present Kore-eda films on five consecutive nights, with a question and answer session by the award-winning Japanese director after each film. Kore-eda fans will have the opportunity to view *Still Walking* at the MCC festival before the official U.S. premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in April.

“We’re so pleased he has accepted our invitation,” said Don Castro, festival director. “The last time Kore-eda was in the U.S. was when he was at Harvard University. Now he’ll be at MCC.”

Kore-eda’s films have won more than a dozen awards from film festivals around the world. Film critic Roger Ebert said, “His films embrace the mystery of life, and encourage us to think about why we are here and what makes us truly happy.”

Festival films include *Maborosi*, *After Life*, *Nobody Knows* and *Hana*. Castro said the films are very unassuming, but with much depth. *After Life* poses the question, “If you could choose to take only one memory with you to the afterlife, what would it be?” Kore-eda’s new film, *Still Walking*, is what the Japanese call a “home drama,” revealing everything that unites and divides one particular family in one 24-hour timeframe.

MCC’s annual festival has become a major cultural event in the Southeast Valley. The past five festivals have attracted over 6,500 festival goers, screened 27 films and hosted 10 international directors from Poland, India, USA, Mexico, Sweden and Iran. Audience approval ratings average 98.7 percent.

For Kathryn Sheffield, a film fan who has attended every MCC festival for the last five years, the festival is a way to travel without ever leaving home. “I’m a foreign film fanatic,” Sheffield said. “This is the only way, other than traveling, to see another country’s view of life and see through other people’s eyes.”

Sheffield said she also enjoys the question and answer session.

“The very idea of having the director available at the end of a film is amazing,” Sheffield said. “A film experience is usually a solitary experience, but you always have questions along the way, so it’s nice to have that opportunity to ask the director why he or she chose to do something a certain way.”

This year’s festival will be dedicated to Phil Carrillo, a former MCC instructor who served on the Board of the AZ Humanities Council. Sponsors include the Arizona Humanities Council, Harkins Theatres, Maricopa Community Colleges and the Scottsdale League for the Arts.

Mesa Community College International Film Festival: *Still Walking*: The Films of Hirokazu Kore-eda

When: 7 p.m., March 3-7

Where: Harkins Arizona Mills 24, 5000 Arizona Mills Circle, Tempe.

Films:

Tuesday, March 3: *Maborosi*

Wednesday, March 4: *After Life*

Thursday, March 5: *Nobody Knows*

Friday, March 6: *Hana*

Saturday, March 7: *Still Walking*

For more information contact Don Castro at 480-461-7613.

MCC Theatre Arts & Film Department Garners Top Regional Awards



Mercedes O'Bannion, 1st Place Winner and National Finalist in Costume Design ("Dracula"). She will progress to compete for national awards at the Kennedy Center in April. Her design boards are seen in the background.

The Mesa Community College Theatre Arts and Film Department has again earned numerous awards of outstanding achievement at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF), Region VIII, which was held at California State University/Fullerton, February 9-14, 2009.

Numerous MCC student actors and designers were recognized for theatre excellence against stiff, head-to-head competition from 76 schools from Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Hawaii, Guam and Samoa. 50 schools in the competition were four-year universities, many of which entered graduate student actors and designers, and 26 were two-year institutions.

MCC earned two first places and one second place in theatrical design categories in the region. Mercedes O'Bannion took first place and is a National Finalist in Costume Design; Zhanae Breeden earned first place and is a National Finalist in

Sound Design, and the team of Christopher Stewart, JennAfer Spruell and Nathan Schauer took second place for Properties Design. National Finalists go on to further competition at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. All were recognized for outstanding production design work on *Dracula*, which was directed by MCC Performance Faculty, Kevin Dressler, this past December 4-7, 2008, in the Theatre Outback. All designers were coached by Kara Thomson, Design Faculty in the Theatre Arts and Film Department. Zhanae Breeden received additional coaching from Keith Heffner, Sound Design Program Faculty in the Music Department.

The awards were by far the most earned by any community college within the region.

"I am very proud of all of (our students) and was delighted when many were mistaken to be graduate students," said Kara Thomson. "It's a great opportunity for them to find the right schools to further their careers. My designers and I look forward to raising the bar and attending again next year."

Actors were also a hit, achieving many school firsts. Out of 350+ actors from around the region at the competition, Jeremy Andorfer earned a role as Eduardo in the One Act Play Festival entry, *Things that Fall from the Sky*; and, Michelle Luz earned the part of Mary in the Ten Minute Play Festival entry, *The Ward*. Only 26 roles were available in both festival categories, and MCC had never had an actor cast in either festival until this year. The One Act Play and Ten Minute Play Festivals are cast through auditions held at the beginning of the week of KCACTF, the casts then rehearse throughout the week



Zhanae Breeden, 1st Place Winner and National Finalist in Sound Design ("Dracula"). She will progress to compete for national awards at the Kennedy Center in April. Her design boards are seen in the background.

and present their works the last day of competition. Directors for both festivals are faculty members from participating two and four-year schools.

Michelle Luz also made callback auditions for acting employment from Missoula Children's Theatre, a professional theatre for youth recognized nationally for excellence in the field. Cody Davis received callback auditions from the Neil Simon Festival located in Cedar City, Utah, next to the Utah Shakespearean Festival. Casting is pending.

"It's not unusual for our students to be offered paid acting positions in the Phoenix Metro Area, but it is unique to have two students being recognized by organizations that audition on a national basis", said Kevin Dressler. "I believe it's due to the efforts and support that the MCC Theatre provides that our students hold their own against the grad students who are also fighting for these opportunities."

MCC actors were also a hit with schools offering advanced programs with the Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts expressing interest in MCC students Michelle Luz, Owen Virgin and Cody Davis; and, the Dell'Arte School of Physical Movement and the California State University/Los Angeles School of Theatre and Film expressing additional interest in Michelle Luz. Through private interviews, many designers received offers of further education from a variety of schools throughout the country. Never have so many MCC actors received as much attention regarding further training. Dressler coached all of the actors.

When asked about the benefits of the KCACTF experience, MCC student actor Michelle Luz said, "The people you meet through networking from various schools and theatres provide me with a real opportunity to further my career as an actor."

Additionally, MCC student designer Mercedes O'Bannion remarked, "The exposure and participation helps measure yourself against your peers, and it helps to get the constructive criticism from working professionals from around the country."

Employee Recognitions:

Lyn Dutson, Director of Theatre Activities: Lyn has overseen the costume area for years and worked throughout the design process with Mercedes O'Bannion.

Monica Hart, Costume Shop Supervisor: Worked very closely with Mercedes O'Bannion throughout the construction of the costumes for which Mercedes was recognized.

Troy Buckey, Theatre Outback Technical Coordinator: Assisted Zhanae Breeden with instruction and set-up of sound equipment in the theatre.

Gary Towne, Theatre Outback Technical Assistant: Assisted Zhanae Breeden with instruction and set-up of sound equipment in the theatre.

Brian Daily, Theatre Scene Shop Foreman: Assisted with many technical aspects that made the *Dracula* production such a success.

Recognitions

- The Corporation for National and Community Service honored **MCC with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll** for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities. Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. MCC students completed 199,750 community service hours with participation in MCC service learning programs and the MCC UCAN Serve AmeriCorps program during 2007-08.

- **MCC instructor Gene Fazio** had the honor of being a guest coach for the ASU Women's basketball team. As a guest coach, he sat on the bench throughout the game and went to the locker room for the half-time talk and post game talk. Fazio is one of a select few community leaders to have this honor. Former guest coaches include Janet Napolitano and ASU President Michael Crow.

- **MCC's director of college safety, Steve Corich**, just finished up a few weeks of work in Mongolia at Mongolian National Police facilities. He observed how police services are delivered to the citizens of Mongolia. Corich assessed police operations and provided a written report for the Mongolian government on what efforts could be made to improve their operation. Corich said the trip was an interesting experience, despite the extreme cold weather of -30 F temperatures. He now knows why he lives in Arizona!

Newsbytes

-The MCCCCD Foundation has received \$1,380 from SRP to support MCC's upcoming Biotechnology Symposium. The donation is to show SRP's support in promoting biotechnology education in the community. The symposium takes place at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus in the Life Science Building on May 9 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Milt Summerfeld, Ph.D., Professor Arizona State University, Polytechnic Campus, will be a keynote speaker, with other speakers to be announced.

-MCC will host a master dance class featuring performer Alvin Ailey and dance instructor Matthew Rushing on Sunday, March 1 from 12:30 – 2 p.m. The class will be held at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus in the Heap Gymnasium West and is open to the public ages 12 and up on a first come, first serve basis. A \$10 donation will be taken at the door with proceeds to benefit scholarships for MCC's dance program. For information, contact Tina Rangel (480) 461-7597 or trangel@mesacc.edu or visit www.mesacc.edu/dance.

-MCC students will participate in the annual Relay for Life event at Red Mountain High School beginning at noon on Sat., April 4 and ending at 6 a.m. Sunday morning. Relay for Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Last year the event raised over \$190,000, which included nearly \$5,000 from the MCC teams. Additionally, MCC students, staff and their friends and family combined to form three teams (of 25 each) and also provided over 250 hours of volunteer service during the Relay event. A special addition to this year's event is the participation of MCC's dental hygiene students, who will be serving as the volunteer professionals for an onsite cancer study. Contact Ed Lipinski at 480-654-7723 or lipinski@mesacc.edu for more information on volunteering for Relay for Life.

-**MCC Visioning website.** Please visit the MCC Visioning website at <http://everest.mc.maricopa.edu/visioning/content/welcome>. The website will be used to provide an overview of activities to engage key stakeholders in conversations about our vision, continually engage employees in this process, and post prominent themes from the feedback collected as well as serve as forum for everyone to reflect and respond.

Also, for employees and faculty who were unable to attend the January 9 and 14 events, we highly encourage you to attend a similar yet condensed sessions on one of the following dates:

- * Friday, February 27, from 8-10 a.m. at the Southern & Dobson campus in the Navajo Room
- * Friday, March 6, from 8-10 a.m. at the Red Mountain Campus in the Community Room

Finally, we plan to have all of the feedback reviewed and analyzed in order to share our new vision at the Spring Employee Brunch scheduled for Friday, May 15, from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.